

Tories press for action now over poll tax Community charge 'a political cyanide pill'

By Robin Oakley and Philip Webster

The Cabinet is coming under intense pressure from Conservative MPs to recast the poll tax to head off growing alarm in the country and party.

Senior Tory figures yesterday joined the chorus calling for far-reaching changes, and the back-bench 1992 Committee was told the tax was proving a political cyanide pill for the party.

The ultra-loyalist Mr Tony Marlow said there was a risk the Conservatives would be seen as "declaring war on the people" and that the electorate would take revenge.

But the alarm in party ranks, particularly in the wake of the resignation of the Conservative whip by 18 West Oxfordshire councillors, has

produced no sign of concessions from Mrs Thatcher and her ministers.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the party chairman, yesterday wrote to every constituency chairman and agent, urging them to "sell" Tory policies in general and the community charge in particular.

Conservative MPs who fear the new tax could lose them the next election, are calling for education, fire and police service spending to be taken over by central government. Others want an indication of a

Millions of people face poll tax bills hundreds of pounds above what they used to pay in rates, according to a survey by *The Times* of metropolitan and London councils, published today. The nationwide analysis shows that town halls will approve poll tax figures next week way above government estimates calculated on an assumed inflation rate of 4 per cent. Details, page 6

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much more generous grant next year and criticized the Government for allowing only 4 per cent for inflation in assessing the latest settlement.

When Mr Patrick Cormack pointed out that 70 Tory MPs had signed a Commons motion calling for education expenditure to be financed by central government, Mrs Thatcher appeared to soften her stance by saying it would not be a good thing for the "administration" of education to be done centrally. Some MPs saw that as a sign that she might at least take teachers' pay off local tax bills.

But a senior minister said later such a move was not being contemplated, and dismissed any idea of shifting expenditure on the police and fire services to central government as mere "creative accounting".

Ian Gow, a former parliamentary private secretary to the Prime Minister, said the Government had underestimated the concern within the party. "We will have to review the operation of the charge and we ought to start that review as soon as we

know all the spending plans because changes will be made," he said.

Sir Marcus Fox, vice-chairman of the 1992 Committee, said MPs were "punch drunk" as they saw the figures being produced by different authorities. "We should have known this would happen. Let us sort it out. I do not believe for a moment it will seem any better once it is introduced."

The strains among Conservatives were evident at the 1992 Committee meeting last night when Mr Tim Jamson and Mr Richard Holt called on senior figures to stop attacking the Government in public. But Mr Marlow said the argument that there could be no changes this year was unacceptable. The Government would be blamed even though the local authorities were the villains.

The community charge once again dominated Question Time yesterday, with Labour MPs calling the Oxfordshire councillors' revolt a popular uprising, and Mr Kinnoch declaring the Prime Minister was running out of both friends and excuses.

But an unruffled Mrs Thatcher responded that she would have welcomed the visit he recommended to West Oxfordshire so that she could "explain a thing or two" to the Tories there.

She blamed the "gross overspending" of £96 per adult by Oxfordshire County Council, jointly controlled by Labour and Liberal Democrats, for the community charge levels which had so upset the district councillors.

At least 16 people, including a British woman, died yesterday when fire swept through a luxury Cairo hotel. Three British journalists are missing. Up to 70 people were reported injured in the blaze, which was fanned by high winds, and took nine hours to put out.

Guests at the Heliopolis Sheraton Hotel, some clutching babies, jumped from upper floors of the six-storey hotel, and others pushed their children out of windows and jumped after them.

The three missing journalists, who were in a party of 23 British fashion writers staying at the hotel, were last night named as Janet Parker, editor of the trade journal *Cosmetics International*, Sally Tate-Gilder, writing for the magazine *Expressions*, and Jackie Moore, a freelance writer. The

A toast to England's sparkling success



Time to celebrate: Allan Lamb, England's vice-captain who was named Man of the Match, drinks to a spectacular victory.

Test win ends a 16-year drought

From Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent
Kingston, Jamaica

England achieved a remarkable Test victory in Kingston, Jamaica, yesterday, their first against the West Indies since 1974.

After dominating the first three days of this opening Test of a five-match series, England had fretted in frustration as the fourth day was lost to bad weather. But their nine-wicket win, equalling their biggest ever against the West Indies, was completed just before lunch on the final day.

Widely dismissed as a team without hope, following a recent record of only one win

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in 25 Tests, England's triumph left the beaten captain, Viv Richards, saying: "We needed a kick up the backside and that is what we have got."

Allan Lamb was named Man of the Match for his innings of 132, but the popular hero of a finish watched by hundreds of British tourists was the captain, Graham Gooch, relishing his first win in 20 Tests against this opposition. "I have waited a long time for this and it is a very sweet moment," he said.

British bookmakers cut the odds against England winning the series from 40-1 to 3-1. The series resumes in Georgetown, Guyana on March 10.

Briton among 16 dead in Cairo hotel blaze

By Our Foreign Staff

Foreign Office said four Britons among the 46 British guests were in hospital. Two had broken bones, but none was critical.

The Interior Ministry said that the dead included eight French nationals, and two Finns. A United States Em-

bassy spokesman said that an American citizen had also died in the fire.

Mr Fouad Sultan, the Egyptian Tourism Minister, said the fire started in a clay oven used to make traditional bread. It spread from the Nubian Tent restaurant next to the 630-room hotel.

Mr Sultan said about 1,000 guests, occupying about 70 per cent of the rooms, and about 300 Egyptian employees, were

No prosecutions in Harrods case

By Our City Staff

The Director of Public Prosecutions has decided there are to be no prosecutions over the takeover of the House of Fraser stores group in 1985.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said in a parliamentary written answer that he will release a report on the takeover next Wednesday. It centres on whether Mr Mohamed Al Fayed and his advisers misled the Office of Fair Trading.

House of Fraser, which

owns Harrods, was taken over by the Egyptian Fayed brothers for £615 million after a takeover battle with trading company Lorrho.

The 750-page report was submitted to the DTI in July 1988. The Government delayed publishing it while the Serious Fraud Office investigated the case.

Mr Tiny Rowland, Lorrho chief executive, campaigned vigorously to have the report published.

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Prescription charges up to £3.05 in April

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The Government came under heavy attack last night as it announced that prescription charges would rise by 8.9 per cent from April, an increase higher than inflation.

The 25p rise, which takes the cost of a prescription up to £3.05, will bring in £13million for the National Health Service, Mrs Virginia Bottomley, Minister for Health, said.

The rise, higher than predicted, means that charges have risen more than 15-fold since the Conservatives took office in 1979, when one item cost 20p. The increase came despite evidence from the

Institute of Fiscal Studies claiming that the sharp rises had led to a 40 per cent fall in the number of prescriptions.

Last night the move was bitterly condemned by Opposition MPs, health service unions and the medical profession, who claimed the charges presented a "tax on illness" and would price medicines out of the reach of many families.

Season ticket prescriptions, for people who need medicines on a regular basis will rise from £14.50 to £15.80 for a four-month period, and from £40 to £43.50 for a year.

Sterling hit by money supply gloom

By Our Economics Staff

The pound dropped sharply yesterday in a late reaction to January's widening trade gap and fresh Bank of England figures indicating bad news on the money supply front. Sterling dropped 0.6 of a point on its trade-weighted index to 89.3.

The Bank's notes-in-circulation data dealt another blow to the Government's economic strategy, pointing to M0, the only money supply measure still officially targeted, failing to respond to high interest rates.

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Muslim source claims US-Iran hostage talks

By Andrew McEwen and a Correspondent in Beirut

A Muslim fundamentalist source in west Beirut claimed yesterday that US-Iranian talks held last autumn went much further than previously admitted towards a hostage deal.

The claim followed a spate of reports of renewed US-Iranian hostage negotiations, emanating from pro-Iranian sources. It is believed that the sources are trying to bring about a further effort to repair Iran's links with the West. Previous efforts have been blocked by hardline elements in Tehran.

But President Bush strongly

denied the reports yesterday. "There are no secret talks going on," he said in Los Angeles. He added: "I will do anything I can" to win freedom for the hostages, except trading for them.

However, the west Beirut source said that secret negotiations were held between Mr Mahoud Rafsanjani, the brother of President Rafsanjani of Iran, and Mr Abraham Sofaer, legal adviser to the American State Department.

Mr Sofaer was the principal US figure in talks which led to a US decision to unfreeze Continued on page 22, col 2

Royal smile and sympathy cheers flood victims

By Ronald Faux

The Prince and Princess of Wales brought laughter and sympathy yesterday to victims of the Towyn floods in North Wales when they visited Bodelwyddan Castle, an emergency centre where families forced from their homes have been given shelter.

The Prince interrupted his skiing holiday in Klosters to pay a St David's Day visit to the coastal towns devastated when storms burst through the wall on Monday. "That's very smart gear," he told Mr Peter McBride, aged 24, whose home, possessions and stock for his business lie under water. Mr McBride was fitted out free of charge by a chainstore. "It was quite a laugh. I was dressed in this smart casual gear and he

noticed. He seemed genuinely sorry and sympathetic," Mr McBride said.

The Prince and Princess spent an hour in the hall at the castle where hundreds of families are sheltered. They saw the large piles of clothing, bedding and

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mattresses that have been delivered in answer to an appeal. About £40,000 has been donated to the disaster fund.

Mrs Winnie Hurst, aged 74, had taken up residence in one corner of the hall with her son, Derek, who suffers from arthritis, daughter-in-law Pamela and two dogs. The Princess sat on a mattress on the floor to hear their story of how the flood swept into their bungalow home in Towyn. "I've not been back yet. They tell

me the water is still 7ft deep there," Mrs Hurst said. "The Princess is very sympathetic but there have been a lot worse disasters in my lifetime. There's no use moaning. People have been marvellous. We are warm, comfortable and well fed. I want to stay here."

Mr Trevor Vaughan had seventeenth birthday wishes from the Prince. The former coalminer was one of the first to be evacuated from a flooded house in Kinnel Bay. Mrs Margaret Brown, aged 41, of Sandy Cove, Towyn, was congratulated for her neighbourliness in staying in her home when all about her lay under water.

The royal couple then visited ambulance, police, RNLI and fire service personnel and flew over the flooded area in their helicopter.



The Princess visiting Towyn flood victims yesterday.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Video may have filmed bomber

Police believe that at least one member of the IRA gang which nearly killed two people in a Leicester car-bombing may have been filmed by a shop security video-camera, positioned in an electrical shop opposite the city centre car park where terrorists are believed to have planted the bomb under an Army van.

Police, who have appealed to anybody who was in Yeoman Street on February 20 to contact them, have been drawing up descriptions of the 2,000 people filmed by the video-camera. By matching the descriptions with individuals who respond to their appeal, they hope to end up with an image on the film which might prove to be a prime suspect.

Detectives yesterday issued a second artist's impression of a man they said they wanted to eliminate from their inquiries. He was seen standing at the entrance of a bookmaker's shop near the car park and was described as being aged 25 to 35, 6ft tall and slim-built with short blond hair. He was wearing a black leather jacket.

Postal lifeline search

Striking postal workers in London have agreed to search through mail for blood samples that could save the life of a child leukaemia victim. Their unofficial stoppage coincided with the sending of 450 samples for testing to a London centre to try to find a bone marrow donor whose genetic make-up matched that of Simon Flavell, aged nine, of Southampton. If not found in time, the samples may be useless, but it is expected they will be delivered tomorrow.

A telephone helpline set up to find a donor brought more than 1,300 responses from people throughout the world.

Agreement upheld

A three-year bid by Mr Michael McGimpsey and his brother Christopher, both Ulster Unionists, to get the Anglo-Irish Northern Ireland Agreement declared unconstitutional in the Irish Republic failed yesterday. Five judges at Dublin's Supreme Court, the country's ultimate legal authority, unanimously rejected claims that the accord ran counter to articles in Ireland's written constitution. They upheld an Irish High Court ruling on the issue.

Peer's farm checked

The National Rivers Authority is investigating samples from a farm owned by Lord St Levan after being alerted by the environmental group, Friends of the Earth. Field officer, Mr Jonathan Rorke took the samples from a ditch at Trevarthian Farm, at St Michael's Mount in Cornwall as the first of series of visits the group intends to make to agricultural land across the country.

MP to stand down

Mr Robert Rhodes James, the Conservative MP for Cambridge, announced last night that he would be standing down at the next general election (Richard Ford writes). Mr Rhodes James, who has held the seat since 1976, had a majority of 5,060 at the last election. Mr Rhodes James admitted disappointment at not holding office under Mrs Thatcher but he accepted that being "a dedicated One Nation Conservative" was presently unfashionable.

Irradiation 'could halve food poisoning'

By Michael Hornsby
Agriculture Correspondent

The number of food poisoning cases in Britain could be halved if all poultry meat was irradiated, a leading food scientist told an international conference in London yesterday.

Professor Bevan Moseley, head of the Institute of Food Research at Reading, said, however, that it could be another 10 years or more before irradiation was accepted by the general public.

Evidence suggested that between 50 and 60 per cent of all food poisoning cases were related to poultry, and that 60 per cent of all poultry carcasses were infected with

either salmonella or campylobacter. "If irradiation was introduced for poultry and a significant part of the population ate irradiated chicken, there would be a significant reduction in the number of cases of food poisoning. In theory, if everyone ate irradiated chicken, we could reduce food poisoning by about 50 per cent," Professor Moseley said.

Although most people now understood the need to cook poultry thoroughly to kill bacteria, there was still the danger of cross-infection, when, for example, the same knife or wooden board was used to cut up raw chicken and other foodstuffs.

More than 60,000 people became ill after eating contaminated food

last year, according to the Public Health Laboratory Service. Almost all these poisonings were caused by salmonella and campylobacter. Campylobacter is rarely fatal, but in 1988 about 50 people died from salmonella poisoning.

Some of the arguments used against irradiation were similar to those that had been used against the pasteurization of milk namely, that it would lead to a relaxation of efforts to reduce cattle disease. Professor Moseley said. But the 3 per cent of milk that was still unpasteurised was responsible for 90 per cent of milk-borne disease.

Despite widespread opposition to food irradiation, the Government is

expected to legalize the process this year. The Food Safety Bill, introduced in Parliament last November, gives Mr John Gummer, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the power to do so.

"It would be nice if poultry farming could be cleaned up and salmonella could be eradicated at source, but we have to recognise that this is unlikely to happen and that food irradiation is a way of getting rid of certain important pathogens," Professor Moseley said.

Poultry, herbs and spices and certain kinds of shellfish were probably the foodstuffs where irradiation treatment offered the clearest public health gains.

Prolonging the shelf-life of strawberries and vegetables was unlikely to appeal to the big supermarket chains, which prided themselves on the freshness of their produce.

ASDA, Tesco, Waitrose and Marks & Spencer are among the supermarkets which have said they would not stock irradiated food because of consumer opposition.

The British Medical Association and leading consumer groups say that there are still too many unanswered questions about the effects of irradiation on food. They are also concerned that the technology could be used to "clean up" foodstuffs that would otherwise be considered unfit.

Engineering unions name new targets in strike campaign

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Union leaders campaigning for a 37-hour week in the engineering industry announced yesterday that two more large companies are to be targeted for indefinite strikes.

The leaders said that other companies could either reach agreement or face damaging and costly conflict.

Next week, the unions will name a further 50 companies on their list, involving tens of thousands of workers.

From Monday, staff at 11 plants in the Lucas Group's engineering and automotive division, and workers at Weir Pumps at Cathcart, Alloa and Manchester, will be consulted and ballots on action may begin later this month.

The intensifying of the campaign comes as Airbus Industrie is preparing to demand at least £70 million in compensation from British Aerospace for losses to the consortium's Airbus programme as a result of the 18-week strike by more than 7,000 BAe workers.

Today, workers at the BAe

plants at Preston and Chester are likely to accept a deal that includes a two-hour reduction in the working week to 37 hours.

After the decision earlier this week by the Rover Group to introduce a 37-hour week for its 30,000 manual employees, leaders of the 13 unions in the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (CSEU) are convinced that their campaign has gathered an unstoppable momentum.

Their euphoria is challenged by the Engineering Employers' Federation, which said that, since the beginning of the campaign, there had been 50 settlements involving 17,000 employees who had achieved a shorter working week, ranging from 37 to 38.5 hours, but 652 agreements covering 110,000 workers where no deal had been struck.

Yesterday, Mr Bill Jordan, president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, said: "Recent events have shown that the campaign is now under

way with a vengeance. The CSEU is prepared to co-operate with the introduction of the shorter working week and maintain the productivity levels we want to see in British industry."

"Companies can either sit back and invite conflict or talk with shop stewards and do a deal immediately beneficial to both sides."

He added: "The 37-hour week has become the norm in engineering, and engineering companies all over the UK ought to understand this."

Mr Alex Ferry, general secretary of the CSEU, said that workers at a further 120 plants had invited the executive of the CSEU to authorize balloting on industrial action. This gave an indication of the "strength and impetus" of the campaign.

Union leaders representing 78,000 manual workers in the electricity industry last night rejected an 8 per cent pay offer. The Electricity Council will reply to the union side next month.

Long road to the Continent



The driver of one of a stalled stream of heavy lorries dozing in his cab at the Dover end of the A2 yesterday. The delay in getting on his way has been caused by the recent bad weather, which has disrupted ferry sailings as well as damaging two berths at the Kent port.

Terrorist suspects given interrogation safeguard

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

Experimental safeguards for terrorist suspects held by police were announced yesterday by the Government, whose Prevention of Terrorism Act has been strongly criticized at home and abroad for giving police excessive powers.

Police in London and Liverpool will tape-record summaries of notes from interviews with terrorist suspects who, in turn, will have a right to record comments about how they felt their interviews were conducted.

The tapes, to include verbatim records of admissions, denials and damaging statements, will be specially sealed on completion and will be available to prosecution and defence if a case goes to trial.

Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, announced the two-year experiment in a Commons written answer. It will be monitored by a steering committee representing the police, the Crown Prosecution Service, the Law Society and the Criminal Bar Association.

The Metropolitan and Merseyside forces dealt with 337 of the 538 terrorist suspects detained in mainland Britain between 1986 and 1989.

The Home Office said the experiment springs from a commitment made by the Government years ago that it would consider ways of giving terrorist suspects the same rights to tape-recorded interviews as people arrested for other offences have.

Opposition MPs saw the move as a ministerial attempt to deflect criticism of the Government's decision to ignore a ruling that Britain's arrest and detention laws for terrorist suspects breach the European Convention on Human Rights.

Mr Waddington declared in November last year that the Government would seek a permanent derogation from the European Court ruling because of the exceptional nature of Britain's domestic terrorism problem.

Under the 1974 Act suspected terrorists can be detained for up to seven days without being charged.

Police trying to trace computer hackers will be free to tap telephone lines with Home Office warrants under amendments filed yesterday for the Computer Misuse Bill.

They could also present electronically generated evidence in court collected during an attempted "assault" rather than after it has occurred. Miss Emma Nicholson, Conservative MP for Devon West and Torridge, has tabled the amendments.

The legislation as first proposed would leave police reliant on telephone companies to trace computer hackers breaking in on outside lines.

They would also be limited to after-the-event evidence being the only documentation admissible in court.

Miss Nicholson, a former computer consultant and author of a preliminary hacking Bill, is proposing linking computer crime with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and the Interception of Communications Act 1985.

It would make computer crime, claimed to be costing Britain £2 billion a year, both a serious arrestable offence under the 1984 Act and a serious crime.

That would give officers the powers needed to bring successful prosecutions, Miss Nicholson said.

Electronic monitoring link to cerebral palsy in babies

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Electronic monitoring of the heart rate of premature babies during labour has been linked to a higher risk of cerebral palsy in the infants.

Researchers reporting the findings of a six-year study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* yesterday said the monitors did not improve chances of survival or normal neurological development.

The findings do not suggest that the monitors, connected by wires through the mother's cervix and attached to the baby's scalp, cause brain damage. But the researchers suspect that they either fail to detect some problems in the baby or create "an overly reassuring atmosphere" in the labour room.

They add weight to studies showing no benefit from electronic fetal monitoring when compared with careful use of the stethoscope. However, the link with cerebral palsy was a "complete surprise", the American doctor who led the study said yesterday.

The researchers found almost three times as many cases of cerebral palsy among infants monitored electronically as among a comparable

group of infants whose heart rates were monitored by stethoscope.

Cerebral palsy is a group of disorders involving varying degrees of nerve and muscle dysfunction that results from damage to the brain.

In the affected babies studied, the damage could have occurred before labour began, or so rapidly that intervention was too late, the journal said.

Dr Kirkwood Shy, an obstetrician at the University of Washington in Seattle, who led the study, said the continuous flow of data from a monitor "could create an overly reassuring atmosphere in the labour room". But she cautioned against wholesale changes in the monitoring.

The study involved 189 premature babies weighing less than 4lb. The devices were used to monitor 93 babies and stethoscopes for 96.

Death rates in the two groups were comparable and 173 of the surviving infants were examined at the age of 18 months. Cerebral palsy was diagnosed in 20 per cent of the 82 electronically monitored infants, compared with 8 per cent of the 91 checked with a

stethoscope. Professor Norman Morris, emeritus professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at London University, said last night: "There is no evidence at all that the monitors in any way cause brain damage."

Women who have their first baby after the age of 35 are at slightly higher risk of breast cancer than non-mothers, researchers say in the *British Medical Journal*.

CORRECTIONS

The headline on yesterday's report of a General Medical Council hearing stated that a "transplant team" knew of the sale of kidneys. No such accusation was made against Mr Michael Joyce, a member of the team, who has admitted all but one of the facts alleged in his case but denies professional misconduct.

The chairman of the National Art-Collections Fund is Sir Nicholas Goodison, not Sir Peter Wakefield as stated in our report on "The Three Graces" (February 26). Sir Peter is director of the fund.

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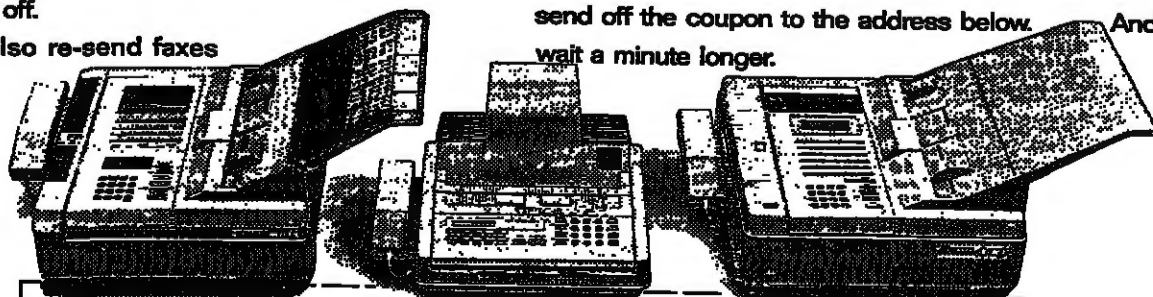
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Cash threat to quality

Rees-Mogg predicts TV pornography in battle for ratings

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Violent and soft pornographic programmes were likely to appear increasingly on mainstream British television over the next five years, Lord Rees-Mogg, chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Council, said yesterday.

A ratings war, a plunge in advertising revenue caused by an economic recession and a general shortage of cash for quality programmes threatened to contribute to the downward spiral in standards, he said.

"The danger, seeing it from the Broadcasting Standards Council, is not just that standards will slip."

"There will be a danger that the average, pretty tedious but pretty violent programme that can be bought in easily and cheaply will appear in increasing numbers because violence is not a bad way of getting up ratings when you cannot think of anything else to do."

"It is also obviously a chance that there will be an increasing resort to soft porn, although I think hard porn is never likely to become part of the mainstream television culture of this country."

"There are dangers in this area, where we have to assume the regulatory authorities will be concerned."

"I believe standards are not indivisible. One cannot usefully talk about broadcasting standards as though the question of how many nipples are shown in a given week is the determining factor."

"They may have a certain technical interest to the Broadcasting Standards Council, but they are not the way to judge whether standards are going up or down."

"The standards of British broadcasting have been created by spending a good deal of money and allowing broadcasters freedom to make pro-

grammes on the basis of adequate funding. If the adequate funding ceases to be there, those programmes will not be made, cannot be made and this is through no fault of the people who control the broadcasting system."

Lord Rees-Mogg's message will set alarm bells ringing in Downing Street, especially as he was appointed by Mrs Margaret Thatcher to head the broadcasting standards watchdog and stop the very thing he is predicting will happen.

Given his background as a respected City journalist and former editor of *The Times*, his confident prediction that

The BBC is to go ahead with plans for a world television news service, Mr Michael Checkland, Director General, said yesterday (Richard Evans writes). Three half-hour bulletins a day will be beamed to subscribing broadcasters. A starting date will be announced within months. He said: "It is inconceivable we will continue with world service only in radio as we move towards another century."

Britain faces a recession in the next few years is unlikely to endear himself to the Prime Minister.

Lord Rees-Mogg, who was the guest speaker at the *Financial Times* Cable and Satellite conference in London, said that if the financing of television went wrong, the product would suffer. He viewed the financial outlook for television over the next five years with "considerable concern."

His main fears concern independent television or Channel 3, as it will be known, from 1993, and the battle for satellite television between Sky and British Satellite Broadcasting. The Govern-

ment's auction for Channel 3 franchises would result in a shortage of funds for high-quality programming.

"It is clear we are not going to get the sort of lavish spending on television from contractors that we might have otherwise hoped for."

The capping of the BBC licence fee, the auctioning of the commercial television licences and the satellite battle gave cause for concern over funding.

Government restrictions are discouraging and even preventing the BBC from the commercial exploitation of its skills and resources, Mr Michael Checkland, the corporation's director general, said yesterday.

In a remarkable onslaught against the restrictions imposed by an array of ministers and departments, he has pointed up an anomalous attitude to the BBC on the part of Whitehall, which avows a broadcasting policy of encouraging competition, choice and market forces.

Mr Checkland's main concern is the Government's plan to end the listings duopoly of the *Radio Times* and *TV Times*.

"Is it fair competition to force broadcasters to provide the details of their programme schedules, of which it is agreed they have the copyright, at a price set by the buyer in the absence of agreement and until such time as the Copyright Tribunal adjudicates, months or years later?"

"This is the market philosophy turned on its head," Mr Checkland said.

Mr Richard Dunn, chairman of the ITV Association, said, Channel 4 would die and the proposed Channel 5 stillborn if the BBC was forced by the Government to take advertising after 1996.

St David's Day daffodil for the Queen



A smile from the Queen as she receives daffodils from well-wishers during a walkabout on a St David's Day visit yesterday to Welsh guardsmen, service families and retired officers at Pirbright Camp, Surrey.

PORTFOLIO

Holiday in Italy for winner

The winner of yesterday's £6,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was Mr Ronald Cripps, aged 66, from Sunderland, Tyne and Wear.

Until Mr Cripps retired from his job as an industrial civil servant last year, his wife Kay, aged 68, was responsible for checking the numbers. "Ronald used to say I wasn't trying hard enough," she joked. "This is the latest in a string of successes for him, including £88 on the football pools."

Mr Cripps intends to share part of his good fortune with the family, before tackling home improvements. "My son has just moved from Surrey to Inverness, so a cheque to him won't come amiss," he said. "We've also contemplated holiday destinations and I think the Italian lakes is favourite."

Mother of attic boy convicted

A mother who regularly locked her son aged 11 in a dark and filthy attic was convicted yesterday of neglect and assault.

The woman had denied both charges but was found guilty by Mr Geoffrey Kamil, a stipendiary magistrate. He said the boy had given surprisingly clear evidence in a distressing case.

Mr Kamil will sentence the mother, aged 29, next Friday after hearing social reports.

The boy told Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court he had never been given a Christmas or birthday present and spent most of his time lying on his bed in the attic.

Miss Wendy Bounds, for the prosecution, said the attic was in stark contrast to the smart, clean bedrooms used by the boy's three brothers and sister. The boy was their stepbrother. His face was like a boxer's from being struck, a doctor told the court.

'Life not enough for double killer'

A man was sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday for murdering his girlfriend while on weekend leave from jail.

Keith Ward was serving a two-year sentence for unlawfully wounding Mrs Valerie Middleton, aged 30, the woman he killed at her home in Birkenhead, West Yorkshire, after spending the weekend trying to patch up their relationship.

Ward, aged 33, murdered her less than three years after being freed from jail for

the manslaughter of Miss Julie Stead, also a girlfriend he had visited in a reconciliation attempt.

Mr Justice French sentenced Ward to life imprisonment, but did not recommend any minimum time that should be served. Mr Maurice Padgett, Mrs Middleton's father, said he and his wife Marlene were disgusted with the "ridiculous" sentence.

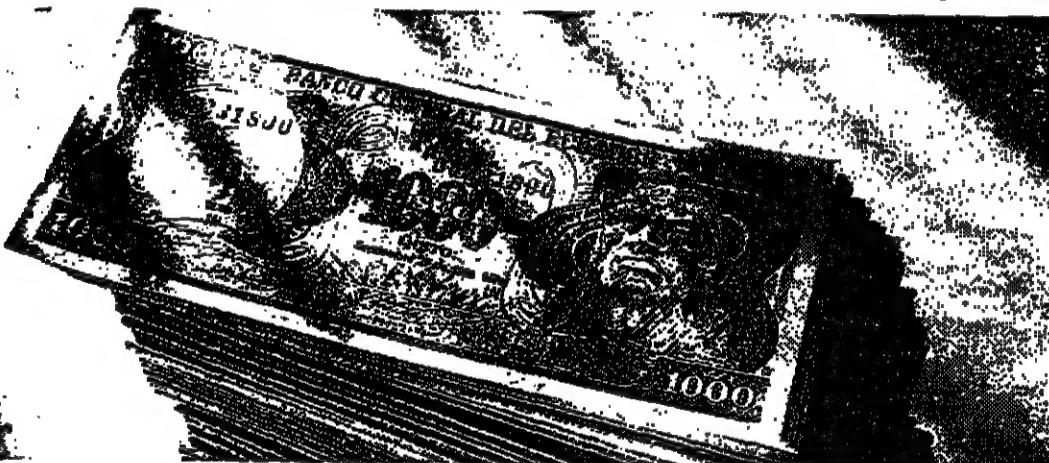
"There should have been a recommendation. He should have got 30

years," Mr Padgett said. "Life doesn't mean life, it means 10 years. He'll be free at 44 to do it again."

The jury at Leeds Crown Court took half an hour to convict Ward. He battered the mother of two to death, bludgeoning her seven times on the back of the head as she lay in the bath.

He said he could not remember the killing which happened after she allegedly taunted him about affairs she had been having.

WWF has bought part of the international debt of developing countries to help reduce the devastation of tropical forests.



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Hospital told aunt 'alcoholic'

An aristocratic family accused of stealing a wealthy aunt's fortune told doctors she was sex-mad and an alcoholic, a court was told yesterday.

The claims were made about Lady Illingworth, aged 84, by her niece, Baroness Susan de Stempel, when the old lady was admitted to hospital in 1984. It happened after she had allegedly smashed the windows of her niece's home with a hammer.

A report from Hereford General Hospital said Baroness de Stempel told doctors: "She is a sex maniac, and no man is safe from her."

The Baroness also warned hospital staff that Lady Illingworth had a "passion" for hitch-hiking, and might walk out of the hospital.

Lady Illingworth, widow of a former cabinet minister, and a former society hostess, was allegedly dumped on a hospital mental ward when the family refused to take care of her at their home in Docklow, Worcestershire. She later died in poverty.

Baron Michael de Stempel, aged 60, Sophia Wilberforce, 27, and Marcus Wilberforce, 28, all deny conspiring to steal from Lady Illingworth.

Birmingham Crown Court heard that Baroness de Stempel told doctors her aunt was a long-time alcoholic.

Sister Audrey Cooper, a geriatric nurse at Hereford General, said Lady Illingworth appeared confused and restless.

The trial continues today.

Student accused

Questions by phone for Sydney witness

By Mark Souster

An important witness in the case of Mr Francis Foecke, the former Bristol University student accused of cheating in examinations, is to be questioned via a telephone link with Australia about his involvement in the affair.

Dr John Ryan, who holds potentially crucial information on the setting of questions and solutions that Mr Foecke is accused of seeing, will be cross-examined on Sunday morning. He set two of the three statistics questions in which Mr Foecke, aged 32, is alleged to have cheated in his Computer Science with Mathematics finals in 1986.

Mr Alan Jones, QC, counsel for Mr Foecke, has suggested that Dr Ryan, who was not a statistics expert, produced his outline solutions after reading Mr Foecke's near-perfect answers. Mr Foecke argues that this explains similarities between both solutions; the Board of Examiners contends that the "bizarre similarities" point to his guilt.

In written evidence submitted to the appeal being heard at the university's Senate House, Dr Ryan, now lecturing in Sydney, said that all his model solutions existed before the examination.

Mr Ian Karsten, counsel for the Board of Examiners, said: "There is clearly an attack on Dr Ryan's integrity in this case. We managed to track Dr Ryan to his home in Australia,

but he is extremely reluctant to fly to this country because of his academic commitments. We cannot make him come."

Mr Jones, a leading criminal fraud barrister, said that he had never experienced such a situation.

"Dr Ryan is a key witness in this case who needs to be cross-examined. We asked him on several occasions over the last two years to give detailed explanations about the calculations and methods used in his outline answers."

"None of these were provided and his statement does not answer any of the questions we would wish to put to him."

It was also said during yesterday's hearing, the tenth day of the appeal, that Mr Foecke was often seen at unusual hours in restricted areas where vital examination papers were locked away.

Dr John Walker, a senior lecturer and administrator of the Department of Mathematics at Bristol, told how he saw him sitting in an area out-of-bounds to students only hours before he sat one of his papers.

Mr Foecke, who has spent more than £100,000 in his four-year campaign to clear his name, claims that the university originally "stitched him up" and now is lying to protect itself.

The hearing resumes on Sunday.

Holiday hotel investigation reveals fire safety breaches

By Shona Crawford Poole, Travel Editor

Locked or blocked fire escapes and dangerous open staircases are common in Mediterranean hotels, according to the magazine *Holiday Which?*

In spite of a 12-year safety campaign by the magazine, holidaymakers, it says, are still being sent to hotels which could be death traps if fire broke out. Its latest report coincides with the news of 16 deaths in a Cairo hotel fire.

The magazine's inspector found that only one of 22 hotels checked had adequately protected staircases, and only five had fire escapes that were unlocked and unobstructed.

The hotels, in Torre Molinos, Spain, and on the Greek island of Corfu, are used by such leading package tour operators as Thomson, Jetstar, Horizon, Martin Roofs, Falcon, and Enterprise.

None of the hotels listed was

judged to have the minimum acceptable safety level. "It is not enough that resorts and hotels claim they are complying with 'strict' local regulations," the report said. "Our findings show that either the regulations are inadequate or... are adequate on paper only - they are simply not being enforced."

The most important provision to prevent lethal smoke from spreading was to enclose stairways, *Holiday Which?* said. Unprotected stairs flouted the fire safety code, yet none of the 11 Greek hotels and only one of those in Spain had a protected stairway. Only five of the hotels had alternative staircases.

The report said that hotel owners and tour operators had a duty to know the basic fire safety provisions and could not be absolved from blame. The Tour Operators' Study

Group said yesterday that the *Holiday Which?* survey was carried out several months ago and was probably now out of date. However, one of the group's inspectors would be visiting Torre Molinos "within the next few days".

The group supports the Consumers' Association, publisher of *Holiday Which?* in calling for improvements to fire safety.

The hotels found unsafe by *Holiday Which?* on Corfu were the Agios Gordios, Belvedere, Corfu Chandris, Corfu Palace, Dassia Chandris, Elea Beach, Messonghi Beach, Paleokastritsa, Potamaki, Regency and Yalisari Palace.

In Torre Molinos the hotels Aloha Puerto Sol, Amargosa, Belpaya, Camino Real, Don Pablo, Los Jazmines, Netai, Pex Espada, Sol las Palmas, Torre Molinos Beach Club and Tiborea were named.

Labour by-election battle opens with attack on Thatcher

By Craig Seton

The Labour Party launched its campaign for the crucial Mid-Staffordshire by-election yesterday when Mr Roy Hattersley, the deputy leader, accused Mrs Thatcher of being arrogant, autocratic and unscrupulous in the pursuit of power.

Mr Hattersley made his scathing personal attack on the Prime Minister at the first of Labour's press conferences in the constituency, where the Conservatives are defending a majority of 14,654. He claimed that the issue in the contest would be "Mrs Margaret Thatcher's poll tax".

Mr Charles Prior, the Conservative candidate, acknowledged yesterday that he faces a close contest but said that he was confident of winning and content for Labour to make the by-election a referendum on Mrs Thatcher and her policies.

The Conservative campaign gets under way on Monday with a visit by Mr Kenneth Baker, party chairman. Polling is on March 22, two days after the Budget.

Mr Hattersley, speaking in support of Mrs Sylvia Heal, the Labour candidate, who needs a 13 per cent swing to capture the seat, said that it was inevitable and right that the campaign would concern Mrs Thatcher's conduct and character, which had caused the Government to blunder

into so many mistakes. He said: "It is her Cabinet, now composed almost entirely of nonentities, who do her bidding."

"The policies are her policies based on her preconceptions and prejudices. It was Margaret Thatcher who deceived the people into believing that the economy was strong in 1987. It is Margaret Thatcher, who, in her vanity, believes she can deceive the people again."

"It is Margaret Thatcher's poll tax. Half her Cabinet hate it and it terrifies most of her backbenchers. Mortgage rates

General Election: J Heddle (C), 28,644; C St Hill (Lab), 13,990; T Jones (L/All), 13,114; J Bazeley (Independent) C 836. C Maj 14,654.

reached record levels because of Margaret Thatcher's interference in economic management, the interference which caused Nigel Lawson's resignation."

However, Mr Prior, the Conservative candidate, an accountant aged 43 who is the nephew of Lord Prior, the former Conservative Cabinet Minister, said that people in the constituency, who face poll tax levels averaging £350, were concerned about how the figures were set by councils. He blamed Labour-con-

trolled Staffordshire County Council and Cannock District Council for setting poll tax levels that would, in Rugeley, the biggest town in the constituency, force people to pay £46 more than necessary.

Mr Prior, who will be joined by his uncle on the campaign trail today, said that the poll tax principle was fair; people who benefited from services ought to contribute to them.

He denied that he was running scared in what would be a two-horse race with Labour.

However, he acknowledged that the Government would be blamed by many people with mortgages who were paying high interest rates.

Mr Prior said that he would be astonished if the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave a "fiscal stimulus" in the Budget, two days before the by-election.

He said: "I welcome the Budget being before the election. It is important we show the electorate we are a responsible Government which continues to bear down on inflation and that there are no giveaways."

Mr Prior said at his adoption meeting in Rugeley last night that he wanted to fight the campaign on the Government's strong record of achievement. He was convinced he would win.

The poll tax debate, page 6

Guinness picked up bill for £180m after titanic takeover struggle, court told



Mr Anthony Parnes and his wife Denise heading for court, where he was said to be a calm, logical and creative man whose contribution to the Guinness bid for Distillers was crucial.

Stockbroker's idea 'saved firm hundreds of millions'

By Angela Mackay

The stockbroker Anthony Parnes devised a brilliant scheme which saved Guinness hundreds of millions of pounds after the company's £2.7 billion takeover of Distillers in 1986, a jury was told yesterday.

The battle for control of Distillers was a titanic struggle, with Guinness's expenses totalling £182.19 million. Southwark Crown Court was told.

Mr Olivier Roux, Guinness's former finance director, said that one of the most important things Mr Parnes did for Guinness was to create a share repurchase scheme.

"This idea enabled Guinness to arrive at the optimal financial structure post bid and was worth hundreds of millions of pounds to the company."

Mr Parnes, Ernest Saunders, former chief executive and chairman of Guinness; Gerald Ronson, chairman of Heron International; and Sir Jack Lyons the financier all deny 24 counts of theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act.

Mr Roux said that Mr Parnes gave a better view of the market than any other Guinness adviser. He gave "a very accurate picture of what was happening" and was very efficient at providing feedback and keeping in close touch. Mr Parnes was "calm, logical and creative," he added.

"Personally, apart from a natural affinity I felt, he was a man I could trust completely and we had a lot of fun together," Mr Parnes said. "Our families enjoyed each other's company and it is very sad that these events have prevented us from being in contact."

Mr Roux agreed with Mr Colin Nicholls, QC, for Mr Parnes that the stockbroker had been paid £350,000 for his role in helping Guinness to take over Bells in 1985. Later, Mr Parnes was paid a £3.3 million success fee for his advice to Guinness in its bid for Distillers.

Mr Roux had no part in negotiating Mr Parnes's fee after the Distillers bid, but said he did not think the £3.3 million fee to be inordinate. "Distillers was a multiple of complexity of the Bells bid," Mr Roux said. "His contribution was crucial. I thought it was money well earned."

Mr Roux said it was not important that Mr Parnes's success fee remain anonymous, but it was vital that his role in the bid should not be widely known so he could obtain objective information from the market.

While Mr Roux said that Mr Parnes had a very small input in building up his knowledge of the Takeover Panel and the code, he noted Mr Parnes certainly had helped him to understand the workings of the City, particularly market tactics in hostile bids.

Mr Nicholls suggested to Mr Parnes that lies he told Department of Industry and Trade inspectors about payments to a company associated with Mr Ephraim Margulies, the chairman of S&W Berisford, were not made to protect Mr Parnes. Mr Margulies had supported Guinness shares during the bid and it was agreed his losses would be covered.

Earlier the court was told

that Mr Parnes feared he was being framed by Mr Margulies who was allegedly saying a company called Cifco, which received £1.9 million from Guinness, belonged to Mr Parnes rather than to Mr Margulies.

Mr Roux met Mr Margulies at Mr Parnes's house after dinner on December 10, 1986, when Mr Margulies apparently confirmed that Cifco was one of his companies. Mr Roux agreed to help with invoices showing that Cifco performed services for Guinness.

Mr Roux rejected Mr Nicholls's suggestion that his motive for not telling the truth in two interviews with DTI

THE CHARGES

Ernest Saunders, aged 54, of Putney, south-west London, faces two charges of conspiring to contravene the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act; two of authorising or permitting Guinness to contravene the Companies Act; eight of false accounting; two of theft and one of destroying company documents.

Gerald Ronson, 50, of Hampstead, north-west London, faces one charge of conspiring to contravene the fraud prevention Act; one of aiding Saunders to permit Guinness to contravene the Companies Act; two of false accounting and one of theft.

Anthony Parnes, 44, of London, faces five charges of false accounting and two of theft.

Sir Jack Lyons, 74, of Kensington, west London, faces one charge of conspiring to contravene the fraud prevention Act; one of conspiring to contravene the Companies Act; one of aiding Saunders to permit Guinness to contravene the Companies Act; four of false accounting; and one of theft.

inspectors regarding the supposed services Cifco gave Guinness had nothing to do with loyalty to Mr Parnes, although the stockbroker had not pressured him to lie on his behalf.

Earlier, Mr Roux agreed with Mr Michael Sherrard, QC, counsel for Mr Ronson, that it was not an exaggeration to call Guinness's bid for Distillers a "titanic" struggle and also that the costs of the battle were "enormous by any standard".

Morgan Grenfell, Guinness's merchant bank, received about £16 million, mostly in underwriting fees. The legal firm Freshfields received £1.85 million, and the American law firm of Mr Tom Ward, a former Guinness director, was paid £46,000.

Other bills included £250,000 to the stockbroker Hoare Govett; £980,000 to British Linen Bank, the merchant banking arm of Bank of Scotland; and £1.29 million in printing and postage. Advertising and market research costs reached almost £12 million, and £15 million was paid to the Inland Revenue in stamp and capital duties.

Morgan Grenfell spent £74 million on 13 million Distillers shares in January 1986, and bought a further 8.8 million shares the following month, Mr Roux said.

The case continues today.

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Hybrid fruit

Research may cross pear and the cherry

By John Young

A new hybrid fruit, a cross between a pear and a cherry, may result from work in progress at Nottingham University.

Although soft and citrus fruit have been successfully crossed for many years, producing a wide range of new varieties, so-called top fruit have until now proved resistant to genetic engineering.

However, Dr Brian Power, in charge of the research at the university's Department of Botany, said yesterday that the new fruit was unlikely to be of any commercial value.

The main purpose of the research, he said, was to develop a new "universal" rootstock on to which any existing top fruit cuttings, such as apple, pear, plum or cherry, could be grafted.

At present, virtually all commercial fruit trees are produced by grafting cuttings, known as scions, on to the rootstock of wild varieties. That is because trees grown from seed are unable to cross-pollinate successfully and the quality of the fruit suffers.

Dr Power hopes that the use

of a "universal" rootstock, a cross between wild pear and Colt cherry, for all varieties of top fruit will improve yield and quality, stimulate disease resistance and facilitate "dwarfing" - the production of small trees that yield early and lend themselves more easily to mechanical harvesting.

The research is linked to a programme of "cloning", whereby the cells from a single shoot are separated and cultivated in sterilized conditions to produce a number of identical tiny "trees". The first 60 or 70 such clones, from a Bramley apple shoot, have recently been planted in the garden at Southwell, where, in the last century, Matthew Bramley developed the popular cooking apple that bears his name.

A similar form of genetic engineering has been used to fuse cells from the leaves of pear and cherry to create the new hybrid rootstock. At present, the cuttings are about 3 ft tall, and it will be another two years before they blossom and, perhaps, produce fruit.

Widows win £1m damages over men's cancer deaths

by Angela Mackay

Twelve widows were yesterday awarded £1 million damages because their husbands died from lung cancer after being exposed to chemical fumes at work.

The men, aged from 41 to 67, had breathed in fumes of a substance used as a First World War poison gas.

A judge at the High Court in Cardiff announced the agreed settlement after a six-year legal battle by the women for compensation. Two of the widows aged 81 and 83 were too frail to attend the court to hear that they had won.

Mr Gareth Jones, the women's solicitor, said last night it was the largest composite award in a fatal accident case in the history of the Welsh courts.

The court was told that the men who worked at the Penrhyn Chemical plant at Pontyclun in Mid Glamorgan died after being exposed to BisCME.

The deadly substance was a by-product of the manufacturing process at the factory which changed ownership in 1977 when conditions were improved.

The court heard that the victims died between 1966 and 1984 and, despite denials by the firm, their case was taken up by Mr Andrew Tree, representative of the General Municipal and Boilermakers

Union. Mr Vernon Pugh, QC, for the widows, had told the court: "It was common knowledge by the early 1970s that BisCME was a very deadly carcinogen."

Yesterday he told the court the firm now accepted liability and £1 million in damages had been agreed.

He said: "It has been a very long and difficult battle for these 12 ladies to gain compensation."

Mr Justice Pill said: "They were subjected to fumes which were likely and indeed did cause cancer and the death of the men concerned."

"The breaches of duty have involved tragic consequences for the employees and their families."

"One can only express the hope that lessons will have been learned from this unhappy and tragic episode."

The judge and the widows' barrister both praised the efforts of Mr Tree, who campaigned for the women despite denials that the cancer deaths were linked to the factory.

After the case Mrs Joan Clutterbuck, aged 64, of Pontyclun, whose husband Les died aged 58, said: "We are very relieved at the outcome but nothing can replace our husbands."

Mr Tree hailed the outcome last night. "It was a long and bitter battle," he said.

Miss Teresa Bruce, an exhibition designer at the British Museum, with a terracotta sarcophagus that caused great excitement when it was acquired by the museum in 1871. The curators believed it was an Etruscan artefact from the ancient town of Cerveteri (Sarah Jane Checkland writes).

A year later, however, someone pointed out to them the uncanny resemblance between its inscription and that on an authenticated gold brooch in the Louvre. In 1875, Enrico Penselli, an Italian, admitted faking the work.

The sarcophagus will be a highlight

at the "Fake? The Art of Deception" exhibition at the British Museum from Friday March 9 in which experts own up to the varied ways in which they have been duped over the years. There is a Botticelli Madonna "betrayed by her resemblance to 1920s film stars" and photographs of fakes

which caused Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The exhibition also includes items, such as a 200 BC Chinese jade horse's head, which have been condemned as fakes only to be reinstated.

Organizers analyze what motivates the creation of fakes and how victims let themselves be taken in.

The High Court reserved judgement yesterday on the call by Muslims to prosecute Mr Salman Rushdie, author of *The Satanic Verses*, for blasphemy.

On the fourth day of the action by the British Muslim Action Front to overturn the refusal of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Sir David Hopkin, to issue summonses for blasphemous and seditious libel, the court was told that far from being a work of art the novel contained 52 four-letter swear words.

Mr Ali Mohammed Azhar, for Mr Abdul Choudhury, the Front's convener, pointed out the words to Lord Justice Watkins, sitting with Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Mr Justice Roch.

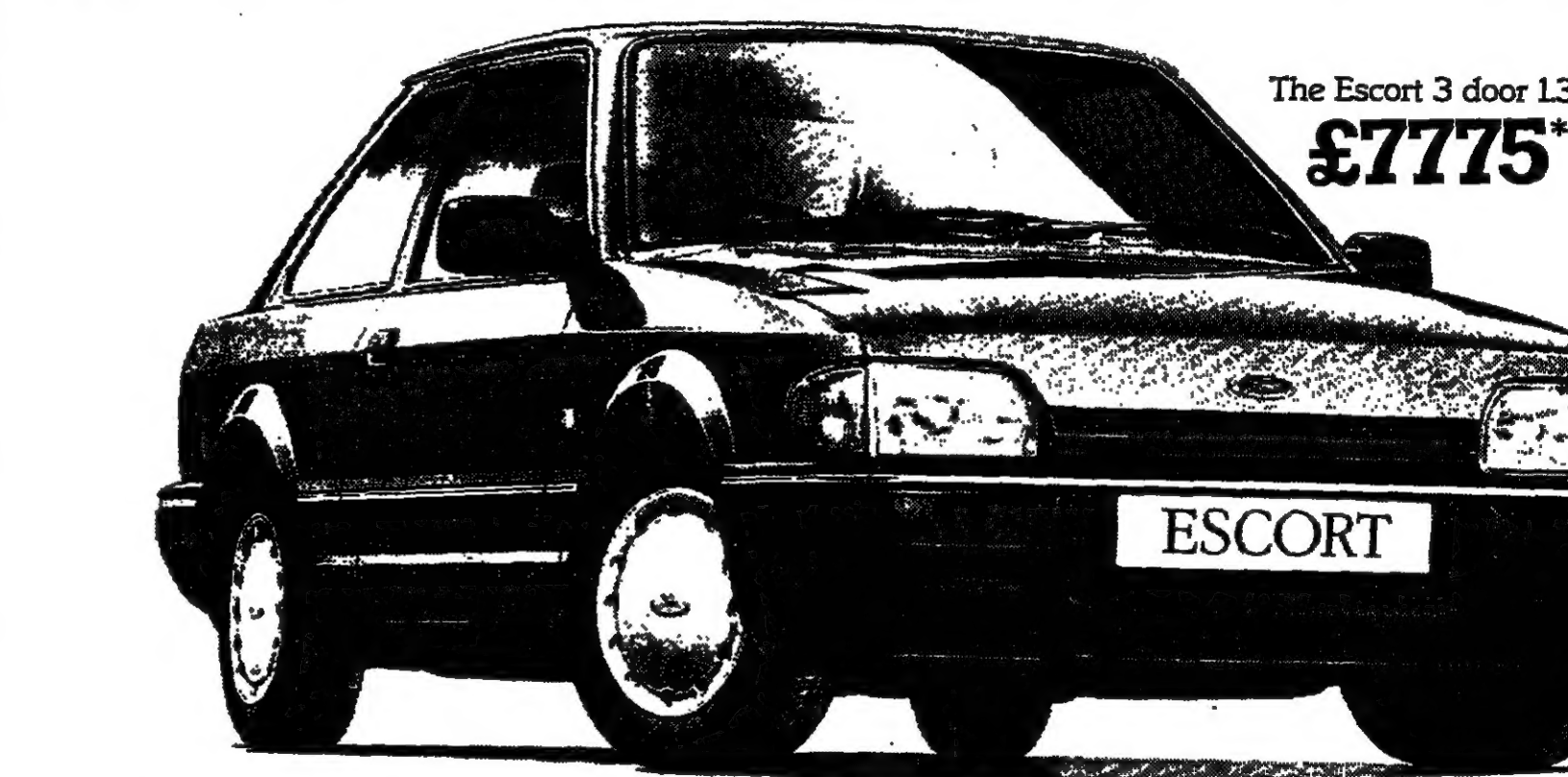
He said that if Christianity was the only religion that could not be touched more books against other religions may follow.

Lord Justice Watkins said there were countless other religions in the same position. "You are not unique," he told Mr Azhar. Baptists, Methodists and many other faiths were not protected and Parliament had shown no moves to alter the law.

No date has been fixed for the judgement but the judges said they hoped to be as quick as possible.

Miss Teresa Bruce, an exhibition designer at the British Museum, with a terracotta sarcophagus that caused great excitement when it was acquired by the museum in 1871. The curators believed it was an Etruscan artefact from the ancient town of Cerveteri (Sarah Jane Checkland writes).

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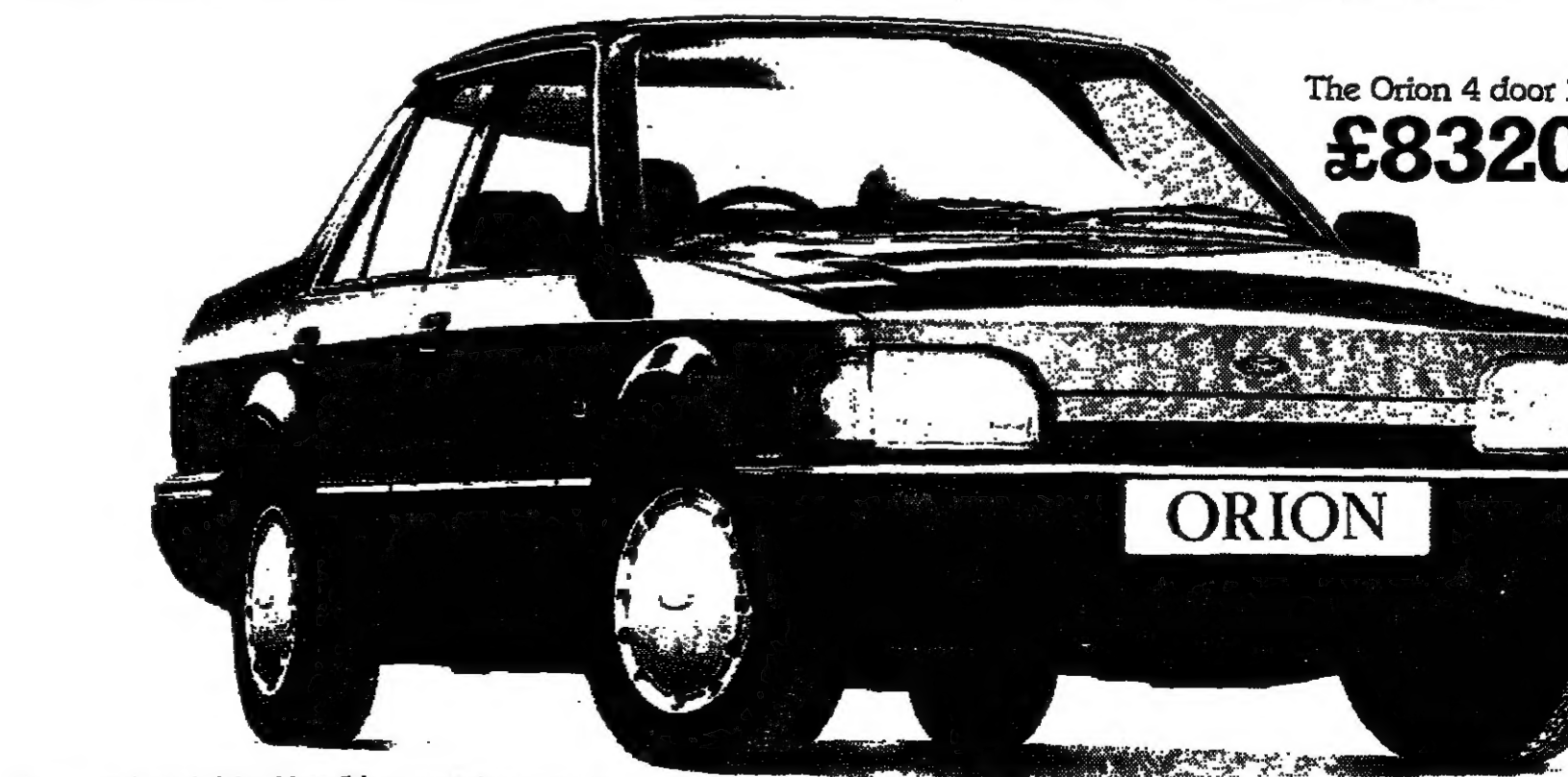
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The Escort L and Orion L.



North Sea waste Danish jibe at UK's maritime 'littering'

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

Britain's "new, green Government" is more concerned with litter in the streets than with wastes that Britain dumps in the North Sea, Denmark's environment minister said yesterday.

In a tart letter to Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, the minister, Mrs Lone Dybkjaer, says that Denmark and other countries are "deeply concerned" at Britain's failure to phase out the marine dumping of chemical wastes by the agreed time of December last year.

They are similarly concerned, she says, that Britain, alone of the North Sea states, is continuing the marine dumping of sewage sludge, and she asks: "Why is the UK still the odd man out?"

Mrs Dybkjaer says that she will be asking Mr Patten to explain "this very unsatisfactory state of affairs" at the Third North Sea Conference, in The Hague next week.

Her comments bring to a head increasingly frank pre-conference condemnation of Britain from other European environment ministers.

Earlier this week, the German environment minister, Dr Klaus Töpler, and his Dutch counterpart, Mrs Johanna Mai-Weggen, criticized British sea dumping, with Dr Töpler hinting at the possibility of legal action through the European Community if Britain reneges on agreements to be negotiated at The Hague.

Britain agreed at the Second North Sea Conference, in London in 1987, to halt industrial waste dumping by

the end of last year, but it is continuing and it was not until last week that the Government gave a date - 1992 - for ending it. However, the Government admits that the two companies that dump nearly 80 per cent of the liquid chemical waste, ICI and Sterling Organics, may not be able to meet the deadline, and it may be 1993, or even 1995, before they have alternative methods of disposal available.

Mrs Dybkjaer, a qualified chemical engineer, says that she finds it "hard to understand that the UK cannot find solutions to this problem."

After sending the letter, she said yesterday: "I hope that the new 'greener' image of the UK Government will turn out to have a solid basis when we meet at The Hague. So far, however, the new, green UK Government seems to have been more concerned about litter in British streets than for the 'litter' it continues to dump in the North Sea."

Britain, alone of the conference nations, continues to dump more than two million tons of sewage sludge a year in the North Sea, and the conference draft declaration, leaked this week, shows Britain formally opposing a 1995 phase-out date for the practice.

Mr Patten, however, is fully seized of the political importance of the conference, which is to take place next Wednesday and Thursday, and is understood to be planning an important announcement about British policy early next week.

Father spared jail

The father of Alexandra Griffiths, the baby kidnapped for 16 days from a London hospital in January, narrowly escaped prison yesterday for his fifth drink-driving offence. Jeff Harris, aged 24, was given a six-month suspended sentence, banned from driving for five years and fined £400. Harris, of Gypsy Hill, south London, admitted stealing petrol, drink-driving and not having a current driving licence or insurance certificate.

At South West Magistrates' Court, Mr Anura Cooray, the magistrate, said: "I have seen headlines publicizing your plight and it is for that reason I am prepared to give you a chance."

Plane ditches

Two Irish Air Corps pilots swam to safety after ditching their Cessna aircraft in the sea yesterday. The plane had developed engine trouble as they tried to land at Gormanston, Co Meath, near the sea front.

Matron loses

Miss Liz Berrisford, of Barton-under-Needwood, Staffordshire, has lost her claim that she was sexually discriminated against after being sacked as a school matron when she disclosed she was to be an unmarried mother.

Navy appeal

Lieutenant Gordon Smith, a Navy instructor found guilty last week of ill-treating a subordinate on a training run, lodged an appeal yesterday against conviction.

Baby deaths

A report on infant mortality from Yorkshire Regional Health Authority shows that more than 10 babies in every 1,000 born in the region do not survive. The national average is 9.2.

Land offer

Mrs Susanna Church, whose husband Charles, the house-building magnate, died last year, has offered 1½ acres to Stevington Parish Council, Hampshire, for starter homes. However, 20 of the village's 80 householders have so far voted to reject the offer.

Oven warning

Parents were warned yesterday of the dangers of using microwave ovens to heat babies' milk after a child was burnt on the chest by a bottle because his father had not tested the temperature properly.

Victory party

A 100th birthday party was held on board HMS Victory at Portsmouth, Hampshire, yesterday for Lt Commander Doug Williams, the ship's former commanding officer who served on board in 1937.

Inquest on girl

An inquest recorded a verdict of death by misadventure on Emma Keighley, aged 14, of Anstey, Leicestershire, who died after sniffing lighter fuel.

THE CHARGES

Ernest Saunders, 50, of 10, South Street, London, was charged with conspiracy to defraud the City of London by the use of false accounts of the company's financial position to obtain loans from the City of London.

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Unlikely rebels shake the faithful in Tory heartland



Mr David Walker: Proposed a mass walkout as protest.

By David Sappedel
Curridge Downs Farm in Minster Lovell is an unlikely birthplace for a revolt to rock a government. Yet it was here, in the gently undulating countryside of west Oxfordshire, that Mr David Walker — "a Conservative all my life" — made the decision that was to rock Westminster.

The farmer, aged 53, who is the Tory leader of West Oxfordshire District Council, decided he had had enough of the poll tax and Whitehall's intransigence on local government spending. At a meeting of Conservative councillors in a crowded committee room of the council offices in Witney on Wednesday afternoon, he proposed a mass walkout from the party as a protest.

In the vote that followed — and in spite of an eleventh-hour telephoned appeal from Conservative Central Office — 13 council-

lors opted to join Mr Walker in resigning the Tory whip and sitting as independents. Later, four others decided to join the rebels over the £412 poll tax the district is having to impose, leaving just seven Tory councillors out of an original controlling group of 25.

The walkout was led by Mr Walker but orchestrated by three other influential figures on the council, Mr Christopher Fox, deputy leader until Wednesday, Mr Michael Fox, a former chairman of the council, and Mr Arthur Titherton.

It was this quartet which, days before, had discussed the mounting crisis with Conservative colleagues, urging them to take part in a protest which Mr Walker said yesterday, "would have the effect of bringing the Government to its senses".

Mr Walker, who farms 250 acres in the delightful rural area sand-

wich between the Thames in the south-east and Cotswolds in the north-west, voiced his concern about the level of the poll tax at a private lunch with Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary and MP for Witney, a fortnight ago.

Mr Hurd agreed to arrange for Mr Walker to lead a delegation to see Mr Christopher Chope, an under-secretary of state at the Department of the Environment. The meeting duly took place this week, the discussion centring on the council's loss of a £2.78 million grant from its housing revenue account and the fact that the "safety net" arrangements for the poll tax would cost an extra £47 a head in West Oxfordshire.

"The minister said the department would look at the problem with the housing revenue account, but we have all heard those sorts of promises before. It seemed to us we were getting nowhere and had to do something dramatic. I must

say I've been surprised just how dramatic the results have been," Mr Walker said.

The farmer, who has been on the council for 11 years, admits that personal, electoral considerations had "some bearing" on his decision to leave. He is one of three of the rebels standing for re-election in May and, "I did not think, in all conscience, I could ask people to vote for me as a Conservative".

Now the electorate in the villages of Curridge, Brize Norton and Law face the prospect of a choice between Mr Walker, Independent, and AN Other, Conservative, in those elections, although, according to Mr Victor Burge, Mr Hurd's agent in Witney, the local Tory association has yet to formally decide whether to field a candidate.

Three local Conservatives yesterday offered to stand against Mr Walker who, like the 17 other ex-

Tory councillors, says he will not be quitting the party.

The Conservative association says it has had many messages condemning the rebels. Mr Walker says he has received one "nasty phone call", but many other supportive ones.

One man who has been "extremely saddened" by the walkout is Mr Barry Norton, one of the seven councillors who have kept the faith.

Protest should, he said "be directed against Oxfordshire County Council, controlled by Labour and the Democrats. At least £39 million of the £60 million extra spending by the county this year is avoidable. That would save us nearly £100 a head on poll tax."

In the shops, on the streets and in the pubs, the rebel councillors appeared to enjoy almost unqualified support.

The regulars in the Red Lion roared their approval of their

stand: "I never thought that you could still find Tory councillors with the guts to stand up to Margaret Thatcher," one said.

Mr Don Fidler, a roadsweeper, said that, as a council house tenant, he not only faced a £6 a week increase in rents this year but also the £412 poll tax demand. "I'm with the councillors all the way."

Mr Victor Parker, aged 58, added: "The opposition to the poll tax has united the town even if it has embarrassed Douglas Hurd."

A businessman in the town added: "I think the councillors' decision is the culmination of several things, not least the concern over the level of the uniform business rate. Even diehard Tories like myself are backing the rebels."

There was one dissenter: an elderly woman shopper who dismissed the councillors as "traitors and quitters who should join the Communist Party."

Householders likely to face bill 33% higher than the rates

By Ray Clancy

Poll tax will be at least a third higher than last year's rates for most home owners, according to a survey by *The Times* of 69 metropolitan and London authorities.

The survey provides the first nationwide analysis based on finance committee recommendations which most town halls are expected to approve next week.

Millions of people in London, Birmingham, Coventry, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne and Wolverhampton face bills of more than £350 a head.

Only home owners in the City of London, Westminster and Wandsworth, south London, will pay less than last year's average per capita rates bills.

Just three metropolitan boroughs — Bradford, Kirklees and Trafford — are within £20 of the national £278 average charge predicted by Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment.

The overwhelming majority show increases of 30 to 50 per cent. Among the highest are Birmingham (64 per cent), Sandwell (62 per cent), Wolverhampton (56 per cent), Rotherham (50 per cent), Liverpool (48 per cent) and St Helens (46 per cent).

The lowest are the Wirral (5 per cent), Trafford (11 per cent) and Bury (13 per cent).

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, faces a 72 per cent increase on the Whitehall estimate for his family home in West Oxfordshire, where 18 Tory councillors resigned the party whip on Wednesday night in protest at the poll tax.

Bills of £406 will be arriving in April for Birmingham's 710,000 poll tax payers. Sir Richard Knowles, leader of the Labour-controlled council, said: "The broadest backs should bear the biggest burden. We want to scrap the whole system and go back to a property tax."

"For 400 years people have paid their taxes in sorrow and their rates in anger. The Government has succeeded in making rates popular."

High tax bills will affect areas that

the switch from rates was meant to benefit. Conservative-controlled Solihull in the West Midlands, the lowest spending metropolitan borough, has set its poll tax at £389 (36 per cent over the government target).

Mr Bob Mescham, the council leader, said: "Our figure is ridiculously high because of the unreality of government estimates. We applaud the principle of poll tax, but the civil servants in Whitehall have botched their assessments."

Surprisingly, the London authorities, who will send out 5 million bills, show lower percentage increases over government targets than the provinces. Today Conservative-controlled Wandsworth is expected to become the third London borough to match government targets when its policy committee recommends a poll tax of £171.

Miss Fiona MacTaggart, the Labour leader, said: "The Tories can only set the poll tax at this level because of £35 million in extraordinary grants from the Government and because they are using reserves built up by past special treatment for Mrs Thatcher's favourite council."

Mr Colin Farrington, director of the Institute of Revenue, Rating and Valuation, said: "The Government has probably made a mistake in introducing other radical changes in local government finance at the same time."

"It now has to bear all the weight of increased local authority expenditure because of government cash limits on its own grant and the business rate for each authority."

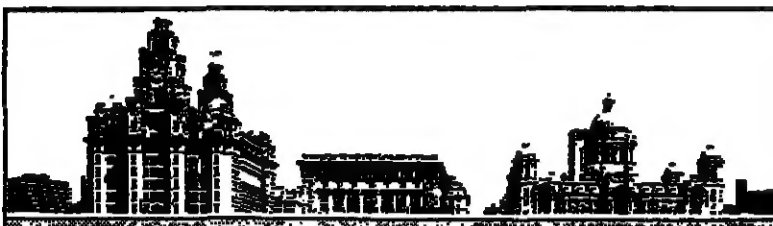
Mr Farrington said the community charge had become a complex tax, instead of the simple concept originally intended, which was costing between £25 and £30 a head to collect.

When poll tax plans were finalized after the 1987 general election, its introduction in 1990 was expected to be in a period of low inflation, low interest rates and income tax cuts. Instead, the charge will add to the burden of a steadily rising cost of living and high mortgage rates.

number of council tenants such as Kirkby in Liverpool where more than 70 per cent of the population live in council homes. Rates are collected with the rent but the poll tax will be billed separately.

The computer industry reckons that the introduction of poll tax has resulted in orders worth tens of millions of pounds.

Collecting the tax in the London borough of Southwark will cost £39 per person. Westminster estimates its collection costs at £5 million — £37 per person. "We are determined to clamp down on those who don't pay," Lady Porter, the leader of the Conservative-controlled council said. In contrast, Birmingham, the largest metropolitan authority, expects collection to cost £4.2 million, £6 a head.



METROPOLITAN BOROUGH					
	Tax £	Govt £	Diff £	Diff %	Rates 1989 per head £
BARNLEY (L)	330*	222	108	49	213
BIRMINGHAM (L)	406	248	158	64	295
BOLTON (L)	344	269	75	28	235
BRADFORD (H)	276	229	47	20	220
BURY (L)	376*	326	50	15	288
CALDERDALE (H)	296*	245	51	21	235
COVENTRY (L)	494	329	165	50	319
DONCASTER (L)	350*	264	86	32	242
DUDLEY (L)	387	284	103	38	284
GATESHEAD (L)	320	264	56	21	246
KIRKLEES (H)	297	220	77	35	211
KNOWSLEY (L)	360*	301	59	20	302
LEEDS (L)	348	257	91	35	225
LIVERPOOL (L)	450*	303	147	48	318
MANCHESTER (L)	425	314	111	35	360
NEWCASTLE (L)	390	328	62	19	291
NORTH TYNESIDE (L)	450*	334	116	35	298
OLDHAM (L)	365	269	96	36	237
ROCHDALE (L)	386	269	117	43	243
ROTHERHAM (L)	360*	240	120	50	225
ST HELENS (L)	435	297	138	46	261
SALFORD (L)	398	308	88	28	290
SANDWELL (L)	425	262	163	62	273
SEFTON (H)	371	296	75	25	287
SHEFFIELD (L)	385	286	99	35	285
SOLIHULL (C)	389	285	104	36	317
SOUTH TYNESIDE (L)	309	256	53	21	230
STOCKPORT (H)	399	305	94	31	305
SUNDERLAND (L)	310	234	76	32	217
TAMESIDE (L)	357	265	92	35	234
TRAFFORD (H)	298	268	30	11	282
WAKEFIELD (L)	305	240	65	27	223
WALSALL (L)	425	298	127	43	303
WIGAN (L)	380	293	87	30	257
WIRRAL (H)	398	381	18	5	381
WOLVERHAMPTON (L)	420	269	151	56	297



LONDON BOROUGH					
	Tax £	Govt £	Diff £	Diff %	Rates 1989 per head £
BARKING (L)	280	278	2	0.7	243
BARNET (C)	338	315	23	7	360
BEXLEY (C)	290	281	9	3	246
BRENT (L)	498	481	17	4	450
BROMLEY (C)	283	269	14	5	247
CAMDEN (L)	550*	344	206	60	492
CITY	288	357	-69	-19	790
CROYDON (C)	287	222	65	30	264
EALING (L)	450	328	122	37	338
ENFIELD (C)	329	300	29	10	313
GREENWICH (L)	408	252	156	62	288
HAMMERSMITH (L)	425	347	78	22	364
HOUNSLOW (L)	398	352	44	12	341
HAVERING (H)	350	291	59	20	255
ISLINGTON (L)	550*	389	170	45	459
KENSINGTON (C)	375	253	122	48	491
KINGSTON (C)	345	326	19	6	320
LAMBETH (L)	650*	308	342	111	324
LEWISHAM (L)	297	249	48	19	274
MERTON (H)	279	287	-8	-3	266
NEWHAM (L)	452	326	126	39	329
REDBRIDGE (C)	290	239	51	21	229
RICHMOND (Dem)	395	341	54	16	364
SOUTHWARK (L)	390	254	136	54	274
SUTTON (Dem)	387	305	82	27	305
TOWER HAMLETS (Lib)	295	247	48	19	291
WALTHAM FOREST (L)	438	297	141	44	320
WANDSWORTH (C)	171*	171	0	0	192
WESTMINSTER (C)	195	259	-64	-25	595

*Government recommendation. Estimated figures. No estimates available for Haringey, Haringey or Haringey. L=Labour C=Conservative Dem=Democratic Lib=Liberal H=Hung

Royal Family gains and the police lose in switch

By Ray Clancy

The community charge will more than double the number of people contributing to the cost of local government services in England and Wales from April 1.

About 18 million people paid rates, a tax on property. Almost every adult in the country, 38 million people, will pay the poll tax.

The Royal Family heads the list of Britain's richest households for whom the switch from rates to community charge will save thousands of pounds.

For most home-owners, however, *The Times* survey of metropolitan and London boroughs, representing more than 13 million poll tax payers, shows that the new tax will be sharply higher than last year's average rates bill calculated on a per capita basis.

The Queen, who always paid rates, will save more than £300,000 as a result of her constitutional exemption from personal taxation — £274,000 in rates on Buckingham Palace, more than £12,000 on Sandringham in Norfolk and £5,698 on Balmoral in Scotland.

Princess Margaret will pay a £375 poll tax on her 20-room apartment at Kensington Palace, instead of £8,137 rates. The Princess Royal, who paid £5,075 a year for Gatcombe Park in Gloucestershire, will save about £4,500.

Lady Porter, leader of Conservative-controlled Westminster City Council, which is levying the country's lowest poll tax at £195, will

save well over £4,000 in rates on her penthouse apartment overlooking Hyde Park.

Losers in the changeover will include 126,127 police officers and their wives whose rates were paid by local constabularies.

"Officers in section houses and married quarters will be very much worse off and have no choice as to where they live," Sergeant Mike Bennett, chairman of the Metropolitan Police Federation, said.

The Ministry of Defence estimated that 150,000 servicemen will also have to pay the community charge, which is expected to exceed payments formerly deducted in lieu of rates on married quarters.

Publicans, whose breweries used to pay their rates, will have to pay the poll tax. Nuns and monks will be spared, and

the Hare Krishna cult hopes to win a similar exemption. Students will pay 20 per cent of the community charge, payable at their term-time address. In Oxford, one of the highest mobile populations with 15,000 students, the cost of collection will be £2 million.

About 9.5 million people on low or nil incomes are expected to qualify for rebates of up to a maximum 80 per cent. In Scotland, where the community charge was introduced a year ago, there are more than 500,000 defaulters out of three million poll tax payers.

The poll tax can be paid in a lump sum, six monthly or in 10 equal instalments starting 14 days after the bill is sent out. If a payment is missed a reminder is issued and, if no payment is made within seven days, the right to pay by instalments is lost and the full year's charge is due.

In England and Wales the Government's transitional relief scheme offers temporary compensation for people who find that their poll tax charges are significantly higher than their rates bills.

It will be available until 1993 on every property where the combined bill for two poll tax payers is more than £156 higher than their last rates bill and is calculated automatically by each council.

In the Rhondda Valley in Wales, the lowest area of rateable value in Britain, all 60,000 adults will qualify for relief.

related expenditure and a budget growth of at least 6 per cent since 1987-88.

The criteria used by the Government in the last round of rate-capping were as follows: for authorities which had not previously been capped, their budgets had to be at least 12.5 per cent above their grant-related expenditure figure and to have shown a growth of at least 6 per cent since 1987-88 in their budgets.

For those who had previously been capped the criterion was that budgets were 12.5 per cent higher than the GRE.

The Government will have all the information it needs for deciding criteria by March 18.

● Poll tax capping will have an "enormous" effect on local authority budgets, according to the Association of Metropolitan Authorities.

Mr Martin Pilgrim, under-secretary of the association, said the cost of sending out revised bills would be "enormous".

Decision soon on 'capping'

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Ministers will decide later this month the grounds on which they will "cap" the budgets of high spending local authorities. It is already becoming clear, however, that for the first time the county councils could be in the firing line alongside the districts and boroughs.

In the days of rate-capping, the predominantly Conservative counties usually behaved well enough to avoid being ordered to cut back.

As with the rates, the community charge will be collected by the district councils, which levy precepts on behalf of the counties for the services they provide.

However, when people read their community charge bills after April 1 they will readily be able to identify whether the district or the county, or both, are to blame for what they may consider to be an excessive demand.

Similarly, if the authorities are capped people will know clearly from their bills — which will be revised if they have been sent out before capping — whose extravagance was responsible for the intervention.

Each bill will show the Government's standard

spending assessment and its judgement of what it considers to be a reasonable budget — taking account of factors such as the population, length of roads in the area and the number of schools — for both the county and the district. Alongside those figures will be the figure that each council proposes to levy.

The local authority budgets, not the charges, will be subject to the capping, although the consequence will be a reduction of the charge.

During the last round of rate-capping the Government distinguished between authorities that had been previously capped and those that had not.

Previously-capped authorities were capped again if their budgets increased by 12.5 per cent or more above their grant-related expenditure (the rating equivalent of the standard spending assessment).

The criteria used for authorities being capped for the first time were a budget of 12.5 per cent above the grant-

related expenditure and a budget growth of at least 6 per cent since 1987-88.

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Log and photographs sold

Bader memorabilia raise £32,406

A sale of memorabilia belonging to the late Group Captain Sir Douglas Bader went ahead at Phillips yesterday, raising £32,406 for Jean Bader, his widow of seven years.

The sale had been postponed last year, after objections by historians who wanted it kept intact. Yesterday's consignments did not include the hero's medals, which were left in perpetuity to the RAF Museum at Hendon by Bader.

His log book, recording the crash in which he lost both his legs with the iconic words "Crashed slow-rolling near ground. Bad show", sold to an English collector for £11,000 (estimate £4,000 to £5,000).

An official telegram reporting Bader missing in action over France on August 10 1941, and stamped "secret", Bader lost his legs after an accident when he was stunt flying too close to the ground in December 1931. He was invalided out of the air force for six years but kept pestering the ministry until he was allowed to fly again.

The record for the French 19th century painter Gerome was broken at Sotheby's in New York, when his painting "Bathsheba" sold to a private buyer for \$2.2 million (£1.29 million).

The painting shows the lovely subject flaunting her attractions as she washed herself on an open balcony and King David looked on.

There was a surprise in the trade at the suspiciously clean and vanished appearance of the 42 Victorian paintings in the Edmund McCormick collection, also at Sotheby's.

Dealers prefer to discern quality through dirt.

Parists also objected to the auctioneer's plan to split up two paintings by Henry Nelson O'Neil — "Eastward Ho!" and "Home again" — which had been kept together since they were painted in 1859. In the event, they were both bought by the same collector, for well below their estimate, at \$55,000 (£32,000).

Although it sold way below its lower estimate, Henry La Thangue's "Winter in Liguria", a painting of women watering flowers around a well, broke this artist's record at £129,753.

The McCormick group, compiled by the American collector from 1976 until his death 14 months ago, totalled £12.5 million.

NEW INTEREST RATES.

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0.60	Home Loan Rate	15.40
0.80	Home Improvement Loan Rates	16.80
	Loans sanctioned before 26th April 1989	
0.60	Loans sanctioned after 26th April 1989	15.40
0.60	House Mortgage Rate	15.40

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Fifty die as Aoun renews assault on militia base

From A Correspondent, Beirut

Troops loyal to General Michel Aoun yesterday launched a three-pronged assault on the headquarters of the Christian Lebanese Forces militia in east Beirut, police said.

At least 50 people were killed and about 70 others injured as shells crashed into the Lebanese capital at the rate of one every five seconds. Seventy others were wounded as the Lebanese Forces of Mr Samir Geagea put up stiff resistance.

At dawn more than 1,000 Aoun troops, supported by commands and tanks and under heavy artillery cover, launched attack in stormy weather against the militia base in Karantina, on the waterfront east of Beirut.

Police said a force pushed southwards from the coastal highway north of Beirut, piercing the militia defences in Dourah district, while another force closed in from the central sector through the Sin el-Fil area.

The covering artillery barrage showered the residential district of Ashrafieh and the adjacent Nabaa slums. The Lebanese Forces gunners in the Kesrouan region, 12 miles to the north of the capital, kept up a barrage of shells against army positions on the outskirts of Beirut, said a local resident contacted by radio.

"The mad shelling is coming from all directions," said a militia radio station, which took a direct hit. The explosion was heard clearly on the air. Large parts of the city were hidden by thick black smoke from fires started by shells.

Wave after wave of tank-led assaults had been repulsed, the radio claimed, although security forces said General Aoun's men were advancing slowly.

There were close-quarter street battles at Ashrafieh, a densely populated suburb controlled by the militia.

Fire engines and ambulances were stranded in their bases, unable to move

out while the blazing buildings sent clouds of black smoke billowing into the sky above east Beirut.

Although no significant advances were scored on the ground yesterday, military observers said General Aoun would not stop the fighting until he wins control of Beirut port, near Karantina, in order to bring in supplies.

Because the battles erupted shortly before dawn, few civilians were caught out on the streets. Tens of thousands have already fled the enclave.

The fighting ended a 12-day ceasefire, and dashed hopes that weeks of intensive mediation by church leaders and the Vatican could achieve a political solution to the conflict.

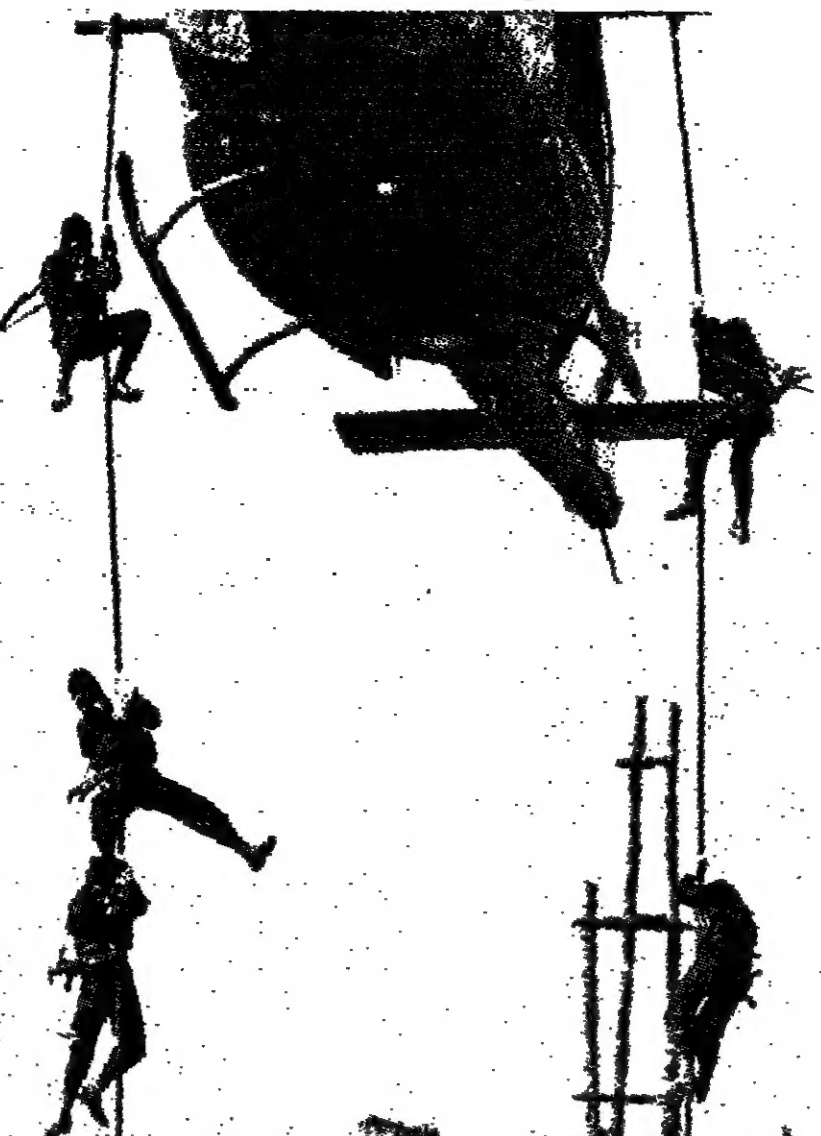
More than 770 people have been killed and about 2,800 wounded since fighting began between General Aoun's Lebanese Army and the Lebanese Forces militia on January 31. Damage to property is estimated at \$500 million.

General Aoun and Mr Geagea have been battling for supremacy in the Christian enclave in central Lebanon, where about one million Christians live. At the root of the conflict is General Aoun's insistence that Mr Geagea must withdraw his implicit support for an Arab-brokered peace accord he staunchly opposes and merge his militia-men with Army forces under his command.

However, the battles could go on for weeks. According to an unconfirmed report in Lebanon's respected *an-Nahar* newspaper, the Lebanese Forces last week received a shipment of Iraqi weapons, including helicopters, originally intended for General Aoun. The report said the captain of the Panamanian-flagged Atlantic 3 served notice he was prepared to deliver the shipment to whoever paid the freight charges.

"The Lebanese Forces quickly provided the needed money and acquired the shipment," *an-Nahar* said.

Aquino's danger men



Philippine soldiers of the Presidential Security Group displaying skills needed to protect President Aquino at the unit's fourth anniversary celebrations in Manila yesterday.

Israel row escalates over mounting Soviet exodus

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

With an Arab League delegation about to visit Moscow to persuade Soviet leaders to reduce the flow of Jews to Israel, a row broke out yesterday in the Israeli Government over suggestions that the number of Soviet immigrants could reach a quarter of a million this year.

Senior Israeli officials said this was "irresponsible speculation" which would only give the Arab world "more ammunition".

The growing flood of Soviet immigrants has aroused fears both in the Arab world and in the West that the new arrivals will settle in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, thus raising new obstacles to a peace settlement, just as Israel is under pressure from the US to make final preparations for its first direct talks with the Palestinians.

Mr Yossi Beilin, the Deputy Minister of Finance, insisted that the projected figure of 230,000 to 250,000 Soviet immigrants was "not unrealistic".

Government estimates of the number of Soviet Jews likely to come to Israel in the latest remarkable wave of *Aliya* (immigration) vary widely. The most common estimate is 100,000 this year. But the Finance Ministry's budget for absorption is based on an assumption of 40,000

new Soviet immigrants. In fact, some 10,000 Soviet Jews have already arrived in January and February, making the estimate of 40,000 look badly out of date.

Yesterday Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, warned of a "hysterical" Arab campaign against Soviet immigration, amounting to a

subsidized Jewish settlements in occupied territory, and still within comfortable commuting distance from Tel Aviv.

Meanwhile, Mr Moshe Arens, the Foreign Minister and close ally of Mr Shamir, flew home from Poland yesterday to help his leader handle a growing crisis in Likud.

The party has until Wednesday to meet a demand from Labour, its coalition partner, to accept US proposals on talks with a Palestinian delegation or face the collapse of the Government.

If Likud bows to US and Labour pressure and agrees with the composition of the Palestinian team and the agenda, the Israeli-Palestinian talks could take place in Cairo in spring.

But first Mr Shamir has to overcome increasingly bitter opposition from Likud rebels, headed by Mr Ariel Sharon, who believe the Palestinian elections will lead to a Palestinian state intent on Israel's destruction.

Mr Shamir said that under the US proposals the Palestinian delegation would include Palestinians living abroad and Arab residents of East Jerusalem. But Israel would never be a party to any agreement "which casts doubt on the status of united Jerusalem as Israel's eternal capital".



A grim-faced Mr Shamir in Jerusalem yesterday.

drive against the very *raison d'être* of Israel.

He repeated his assurance to President Bush last week that "no special incentives" were being given to newly arrived Soviet Jews to influence them to settle in the West Bank. But sources said many Russian immigrants were likely to conclude that it was more attractive to live in

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Initial Payment (Minimum 50%)	£3887.48	£4289.48	£4159.96	£4410.00
12 Monthly Payments of	£323.96	£357.46	£346.67	£367.50
Charge for Credit	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Credit Price	£7775.00	£8579.00	£8320.00	£8820.00
3.9% (APR 7.5%)				
Initial Payment (Minimum 50%)	£3887.50	£4289.50	£4160.00	£4410.00
24 Monthly Payments of	£174.61	£192.67	£186.85	£198.08
Charge for Credit	£303.14	£334.58	£324.40	£343.92
Total Credit Price	£8078.14	£8913.58	£8644.40	£9163.92
6.9% (APR 13.4%)				
Initial Payment (Minimum 33%)	£2565.75	£2831.07	£2745.60	£2910.60
36 Monthly Payments of	£174.65	£192.72	£186.90	£198.13
Charge for Credit	£1078.15	£1189.99	£1154.00	£1223.28
Total Credit Price	£8853.15	£9768.99	£9474.00	£10043.28
7.9% (APR 15.1%)				
Initial Payment (Minimum 20%)	£1555.00	£1715.80	£1664.00	£1764.00
48 Monthly Payments of	£170.53	£188.17	£182.49	£193.45
Charge for Credit	£1965.44	£2168.96	£2103.52	£2229.60
Total Credit Price	£9740.44	£10747.96	£10423.52	£10949.60

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The Escort and Orion.



WORLD ROUNDUP

California quake prompts warning

Los Angeles (Reuters) — After an earthquake shook buildings from Las Vegas to Los Angeles and the Mexican border, 17 aftershocks rocked 13,000 sq miles, causing landslides, smashing windows and emptying store shelves. At least six people were injured in the first 20-second tremor, which struck at 3.45pm (23.45 GMT) on Wednesday.

Dr Lucille Jones, a seismologist at the California Institute of Technology, said the number of aftershocks and land faults gave "some potential" in the next few days for an earthquake strong enough to cause major damage. The earthquake measured 5.5 on the Richter scale, strong enough to cause considerable damage, and the aftershocks were as high as 4.8. Road crews worked overnight to clear boulders twice the size of cars from Los Angeles freeways.

Father offers reward

Nairobi — Mr John Ward, the father of Julie Ward, a British woman who was killed in a Kenyan game park 18 months ago, is offering a £15,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of her killers (A Correspondent writes). Two Scotland Yard detectives, here to aid local police with the murder investigation which reopened yesterday, announced the reward. According to Mr Justice Matthew Muli, the Kenyan Attorney General, a preliminary report by Detective Chief Superintendent Kenneth Thompson, who was in Kenya last month, exonerates the Kenyan police over allegations of covering up the death but recommends further investigations.

Bougainville truce

Sydney — Papua New Guinea will start to withdraw its troops from Bougainville island this morning. A ceasefire is due to end 16 months of fighting by local secessionist rebels (Robert Cockburn writes). Announcing the ceasefire and voluntary withdrawal, the Prime Minister, Mr Rabbin Namaliu, said in Port Moresby yesterday that all 800 troops and riot police would quit Bougainville by March 16 if peace talks progressed as planned. The agreement to negotiate a settlement marks a defeat for the mainland Army's last big offensive, launched in January. This first formal ceasefire agreement, between the national Army and the Bougainville Revolutionary Army, paves the way for direct talks.

Britons in jail break

Dunkirk (AFP) — Three prisoners, including two Britons awaiting trial on drugs charges, pulled off a classic jail break here yesterday by digging a hole in the wall of their dormitory and scaling a wall using knotted sheets as ropes, prison officials said. The two Britons, identified by the French authorities as Mr Julian Dickinson, aged 22, and Mr Spencer Boye, aged 30, and the Frenchman, M Frédéric Malinro, 23, used spoons or forks stolen from the prison canteen to dig out bricks from the wall. Guards discovered the men were missing during their morning reveille rounds, the officials said, adding that six other inmates being held in the dormitory had apparently declined to join the escape. None of the three has been recaptured.

Rome fountain threat

Rome — The famous baroque fountains of Rome, the work of such 17th and 18th-century architects as Gian Lorenzo Bernini and Niccolò Salvi, are being slowly and inexorably destroyed by the water that plays over them (Paul Bompard writes). A combination of calcium deposits and corrosive chemicals dissolved in the closed-circuit water systems is both encrusting the travertine and eating it away. In an attempt to combat the deterioration, the city authorities have decided to install computerized treatment equipment which should maintain the water at the correct chemical balance. The trouble is blamed on "acid rain", formed when sulphur in car and gas central heating exhaust fumes combines with rainwater to form sulphuric acid.

France presses for Kohl pledge on Oder-Neisse talks

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, yesterday refused to commit himself to Poland's call for immediate talks on a draft treaty on the Oder-Neisse border, despite pointed criticism by the French Foreign Minister that his ambiguities were destabilizing.

Herr Kohl said he could not accept the proposal by Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Polish Prime Minister, that East and West Germany should begin negotiations with Poland without waiting for reunification.

Meanwhile in West Berlin, Mr Roland Dumas, the French Foreign Minister, said the border was inviolable, and Bonn ought to say so without delay.

Herr Kohl said he was in no position to negotiate for all Germany, and he disagreed with Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his Foreign Minister, who has pressed the Polish proposal on his Cabinet colleagues. Poland wants the two states to initial a draft treaty renouncing any claim to territories lost after the Second World War, with the text being ratified by an all-German parliament after reunification.

Herr Kohl insisted that no one in Germany wanted to link reunification with the border question, but Poland's western frontier could only be legally settled by a treaty between Poland and a reunified Germany. He repeated his readiness to accept an immediate joint declaration by the parliaments of both East and West Germany on the inviolability of the present border, if this would calm Polish fears.

M Dumas yesterday sharply attacked the Chancellor's

continued hair-splitting. At a press conference during a one-day visit to West Berlin he emphasized that the Polish-East German border was inviolable. This must be said in Bonn without delay to kill uncertainties and fears, the seeds of instability, he added.

"Putting off a response to wait for the constitution of a grand parliament is not reasonable," he said. "What is hindering the parliaments of both Germanies from making their resolution today? There



M Dumas: Says ambiguities are destabilizing.

are moments when silence is heavy with ambiguities."

Herr Kohl spoke yesterday at a joint press conference with the leaders of the Alliance — the three conservative parties in East Germany who have joined forces to fight the election on a platform supported by Herr Kohl's ruling Christian Democrats.

The three men emphasized that the Oder-Neisse border was not an issue in East Germany. All parties accepted its finality. "We have all stated clearly and unambiguously that the borders are those of 1990, without reservations," said Herr Wolfgang Schnurr,

leader of the Democratic Awakening.

They all agreed that a united Germany could not be neutral. History had shown the dangers of this, they said.

Herr Kohl said Germany must remain part of Nato; his electoral partners hedged the issue, saying discussions had not yet begun on which grouping — Nato or the Warsaw Pact — they wanted to see their country belong to.

Herr Kohl and the Alliance said they supported reunification under Article 23 of the West German Constitution. Under this, the five reconstituted East German Länder would simply vote to join the Federal Republic. The Alliance leaders said they accepted the immediate application of the West German Constitution in East Germany.

Chancellor Kohl insisted that reunification would not lead to higher taxes in the West. But despite calls from the East for an exchange rate of 1:1 for the two currencies — to reassure East German pensioners and those with savings — he said the rate had still to be negotiated.

Herr Schnurr said his party did not want handouts from Bonn; East Germans had the will and means to rebuild their country by their own efforts. "We are not beggars," he said. His party wanted a market economy, and not some third way of socialism. "People can no longer even bear the word socialism," he said.

The Alliance manifesto repeats the controversial assertion made recently by Chancellor's Kohl senior adviser that East Germany stood on the verge of bankruptcy, and emphasizes the slogan "Never again socialism".

Genscher takes election trail across border



Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister and leader of the Free Democratic Party, getting a warm Liberal welcome in Erfurt.

Western VIPs steal East's poll limelight

From Anne McElroy, Erfurt

The citizens of the southern town of Erfurt could be forgiven for thinking that election candidates for Thuringia, the East German heartland, are being shipped in from across the border, such is the involvement of Big Brother (West) in the campaign.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl came here last week; Herr Willy Brandt was here last Sunday, and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher came on a mission to stir Liberal hearts on Wednesday.

But the most persistent so far has been Herr Rudi Arndt,

a veteran Social Democrat, formerly the Mayor of Frankfurt and leader of the Socialist group in the European Parliament. At 62, and after leaving Strasbourg last year — "I could have been president but I did not want it" — he had all but retired from politics when the changes in the East allowed the Social Democrats there to re-form after 40 years.

Herr Arndt, a boisterous left-winger, wasted no time in marching across the border from Frankfurt to Erfurt doling out good advice.

"I thought a bit of old-hand

experience would not go amiss when a party has to start with nothing in November and win an election by March." Everyone in Erfurt knows him. He has taken a flat in the town and engages in dawn-to-dusk door-knocking sessions.

He was shameless about the intervention in East Germany's first free elections. "The Social Democrats have a tradition in the East which was rudely interrupted by the communist ban. We are simply picking up the torch after 40 years," he says.

He has chosen a difficult

patch. The combination of the middle-class milieu, the strength of the Church and the visit of Herr Kohl last week make Erfurt more likely to vote with the conservative Alliance. He reacts to the prognosis with the stubborn disbelief of the seasoned campaigner, telling one doubter that the minimal impact of Herr Kohl's visit can be judged by the fact that city trains were still able to run while he was speaking.

Herr Arndt says that he will retire to Frankfurt after the election. "The parties here will

have to reach a consensus among themselves in order to conquer the burden of the past. We have no business here then."

Former colleagues say that he is re-velling in the opportunity to rescue his receding profile by finding a new stage on which to shine, even if only briefly.

Does he see himself as the first West German mayor of Erfurt? "For heaven's sake, no. Done that once, did not like it much," he says, and strides off in the direction of another voter.

Mandela in Lusaka

ANC armed wing stays

From Gavin Bell, Lusaka

The African National Congress is determined to keep its armed wing and its clandestine cells in South Africa in the crucial run-up to power-sharing negotiations with the Pretoria Government.

While welcoming President de Klerk's peace initiatives, the ANC is not convinced that he shares its vision of a non-racial democracy, and is wary of being manoeuvred into a weak negotiating position.

Caution was evident when the ANC's 34-member national executive began a two-day meeting in Lusaka yesterday with realistic prospects of political power on its agenda for the first time in the organization's 78-year history.

Mr Nelson Mandela, the veteran figurehead leader of the ANC, attending his first national executive meeting in three decades, chaired the session flanked by Mr Alfred Nzo, the acting president, and Mr Joe Slovo, the general secretary of the South African Communist Party.

After the lifting of bans on the ANC and the release of Mr Mandela, who is to speak at a rock concert and rally at Wembley in London on Easter Monday in April, executive members were in a relaxed and expansive mood as they chatted informally with journalists before the opening session.

Mr Joe Modise, the com-

mander of the armed wing, however, rejected recent suggestions by President Kaunda of Zambia and members of the Anglican clergy in South Africa that his forces should lay down their arms as a gesture of reconciliation.

"Nothing fundamental has happened to justify suspending the armed struggle. Even if we reach such a stage, it would be a matter for negotiations, and this presupposes that a

Johannesburg — Mr R. F. "Pik" Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, met Angolan leaders yesterday, his first official visit there, for talks on economic co-operation and South African developments (Ray Kennedy writes). Diplomats say this could presage a visit soon by President de Klerk.

climate conducive to negotiations has been created," he said.

This effectively means that the ANC is not prepared to consider withdrawing its guerrillas until the Government has met its conditions for negotiations by lifting the state of emergency, releasing all political prisoners, halting political trials and executions, and removing troops from black townships.

At that point, the issue could be discussed in terms of a mutual suspension of hosti-

ties. "We are mindful of Mr de Klerk's problems in his constituency, notably the radical right wing but, as the oppressed people, we are on the receiving end, and we also have our constituency to consider," Mr Modise said.

JOHANNESBURG: Mr de Klerk announced last night that a judicial commission which is to begin its sittings next week will investigate whether Anton Lubowski, the murdered white lawyer who was a leading member of the South West Africa People's Organization in Namibia, was a paid agent of South African military intelligence (Ray Kennedy writes).

His announcement at a specially convened joint session of the tricameral Parliament in Cape Town came after General Magnus Malan, the Defence Minister, said he had documentary proof that Lubowski was a spy.

Mr Lubowski was murdered in Windhoek, the Namibian capital, last year allegedly by gunmen who have been linked to the shadowy Civil Co-operation Bureau, a branch of military intelligence which is suspected of carrying out political assassinations.

Mr de Klerk said the inquiry he announced in January to investigate claims about the existence of police "hit squads" would now include the Lubowski affair.

Hong Kong passport plea encounters legal hurdles

By Catherine Sampson in Peking and Andrew McEwen in London

In a move which could undermine Britain's efforts to slow the exodus of key people from Hong Kong, China repeated yesterday that it might not recognize passports given by Britain and other nations to Hong Kong Chinese.

Britain has approached a wide range of friendly nations asking them to grant citizenship to Hong Kong nationals, with the aim of giving essential workers the confidence to remain in the colony during the last years of British rule.

But it became clear yesterday that the Government has found a far less encouraging response than reports suggest. Several countries have said they would like to help but are prevented by their laws.

Reports that France, The Netherlands, Italy, Canada, Australia, Japan and Singa-

pore had promised to provide passports were "premature", official sources said.

Only "one or two" countries responded favourably and others were still considering Britain's request.

The most promising response to the British request for help came yesterday from France. A Foreign Ministry official made clear that key Hong Kong people working for French companies were likely to be given permission to live in France under residence permits.

Canada rejected the request on legal grounds, although it emphasized its willingness to continue allowing 25,000 Hong Kong people a year to settle in Canada.

Italy said it was "favourable in principle" but had legal difficulties because only those resident in Italy for five years

qualify for citizenship. A Dutch Foreign Ministry spokesman said it was unaware of the British request and an Australian official doubted whether Canberra had made any decision yet.

The willingness of other countries to help is likely to slip with the tough line taken yesterday by the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

Mr Li Zhaoxing, its spokesman, said that any Chinese citizen who wanted to acquire foreign citizenship must "obtain approval to forfeit his or her Chinese citizenship".

China regards all Hong Kong Chinese as Chinese citizens. But a Western diplomat noted that before 1997, while Britain is still running Hong Kong, China will not be able to enforce such requirements for renouncing Chinese citizenship.

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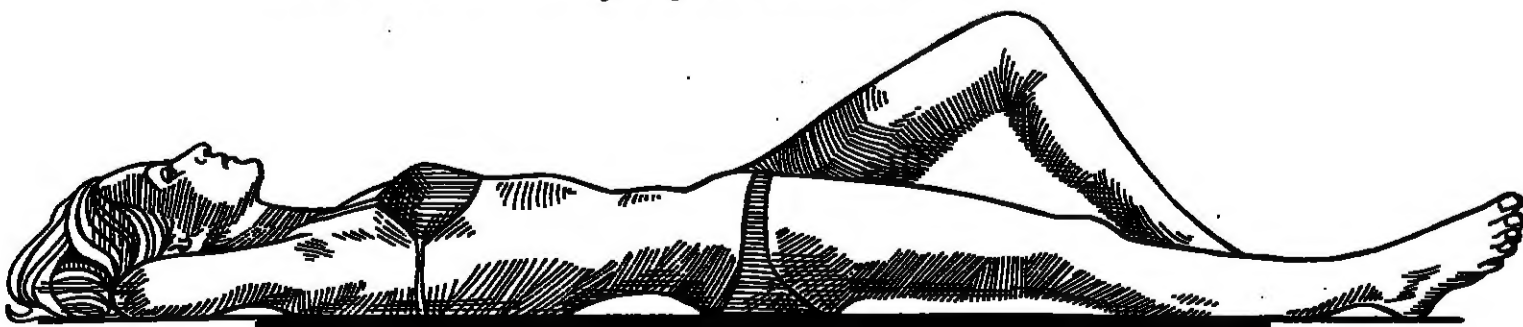
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CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Kremlin still split on military role of a united Germany

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

Leaders of East Germany's recently formed Social Democratic Party said in Moscow yesterday that troops from Nato and the Warsaw Pact might be allowed to stay in a unified Germany without upsetting the Soviet Union.

They suggested, however, that there were still divisions in the Kremlin over accepting Nato membership for even the western part of a united Germany.

Herr Ibrahim Bohme, chairman of the Social Democratic Party, and Herr Walter Romberg, a minister without portfolio in East Germany's present coalition Government, were addressing a press conference at the end of a two-day visit to the Soviet capital.

The previous day they met Mr Valentin Falin, the Kremlin's specialist on Germany, and Mr Aleksandr Yakovlev, a reformist on the Politburo regarded as close to President Gorbachev.

The high-level access enjoyed by the delegation was more appropriate to officials from a fraternal party and suggested that they were being treated as potential East German leaders.

According to some predictions — dismissed by Herr Bohme as an attempt to mobilize the opposition — the Social Democrats could win more than 50 per cent of the vote in the elections on March 18.

Herr Romberg outlined a scheme proposed by the Social Democrats which would allow each of the four powers — the United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union — to maintain a token force of 30,000 troops in Germany for some time after unification.

Germany itself would be permitted a balancing force of approximately 130,000 men.

Herr Romberg said that the plan had met with Soviet approval and did not contradict Moscow's stipulation that a unified Germany should not destroy what it saw as the present equilibrium between the two alliances in Europe.

This was the form of words chosen by President Gorbachev in a *Pravda* interview last week, when he avoided insisting either that a united Germany should be neutral or that it should be outside Nato.

The Social Democratic delegation's visit was part of an intensive round of Soviet diplomacy in advance of the four-power talks on the future of Germany.

On Wednesday, Mr Yakovlev also received a

group of West German Social Democrats, led by Herr Egon Bahr, for discussions on unity.

The same day Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, received the East German ambassador, who handed over his government's proposals for stage-by-stage unification, synchronized with "the all-European process" and the creation of a new security structure for the continent.

According to Tass, Mr Shevardnadze had emphasized that the task of the talks "is not to rubber-stamp everything that may be advanced as a result of preliminary discussions by two, three or four participants of the group."

This echoed Mr Gorbachev's insistence that it would be unacceptable for some participants to agree on a solution beforehand and present the Soviet Union with a

fait accompli.

Although in his *Pravda* interview Mr Gorbachev was careful to leave room for negotiation over the precise form that a united Germany would take, shades of earlier disagreement in the Kremlin resurfaced in the discussions held by the East German Social Democratic leaders.

According to Herr Romberg, the Soviet side had ruled out anything except neutrality for a united Germany. When questioned on this point, he said that their talks had not been formal inter-government talks and should not be interpreted as representing the firm position of either side.

In the past two months, Moscow has acknowledged that German unification is inevitable sooner rather than later and has sought to control the process rather than pre-

vent it. In the space of two weeks last month, Mr Gorbachev met Herr Hans Modrow, the East German Prime Minister, Herr Gregor Gysi, the East German party leader, and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany.

The Ottawa agreement on the "four plus two" formula for talks (in which talks between the four powers would be followed by further talks involving the two German states) was concluded shortly afterwards.

While Soviet diplomacy on Germany can be regarded as modestly successful so far, Moscow's preoccupation with the German question, and with its own domestic problems, may be handicapping its diplomatic efforts in other areas.

The Foreign Ministry announced yesterday that planned visits to the Soviet Union by President Mubarak of Egypt and Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, had been postponed, as had the Soviet Foreign Minister's trip to Japan.

All had been scheduled for March. Mr Mubarak's visit would have been the first by an Egyptian leader for 18 years, and could have formed the basis for a new Soviet initiative in the Middle East.

Mr Shevardnadze's Tokyo visit was expected to set a date for Mr Gorbachev's promised visit to Japan.

There is, as yet, no news of a change in the timing of the Gorbachev-Bush summit in Washington, which is planned for early June — less than a month before the rescheduled Communist Party congress in Moscow.

But the importance for the Soviet side of completing disarmament agreements suggests it is doing all it can to keep to the original timetable for the summit.

● **BUDAPEST:** Talks between Hungary and the Soviet Union on the complete withdrawal of Soviet forces are held up over the issue of a timetable, according to Mr Ferenc Somogyi, the State Secretary of the Foreign Ministry, who heads the Hungarian negotiating team (Ernest Beck writes).

Speaking after two days of talks with Soviet experts, Mr Somogyi said big differences remained over how quickly the 50,000 Soviet troops should leave. Hungary would like an agreement signed by March 10 — two weeks before multi-party elections.

Lifting the veil on mysteries of Romania's revolution

Rising linked to Russian tourists

From Richard Bassett, Bucharest

In Bucharest's crumbling Athenaeum Palace Hotel, where the furniture is still riddled with bullet holes left by the trigger-happy Romanian Army last December, a page of the visitors' book is missing.

For Mr Grigore Corpasescu, who is attempting to reconstruct on film Romania's December revolution, this missing page is the key part of an as yet untold story.

Mr Corpasescu has no doubt that the revolution here was carefully stage-managed — as was the case in Prague and East Berlin — by the Russians. "They were certainly critically involved both before and after," he says.

Yesterday, as Mr Corpasescu filmed Ceausescu's helicopter (complete with the same pilot) landing once again on the roof of party headquarters, he was keen to dwell on the unanswered questions which shroud the Romanian revolution.

"The pilot of this helicopter is an old friend. I have many friends in the police. Timisoara was not started by the Hungarian pastor, the Rev Laszlo Tokes," he says.

According to Mr Corpasescu, a party of Soviet "tourists", all unusually on individual visas, arrived in Timisoara two days before the first demonstration outside Mr Tokes's house. Police records trace them reaching Bucharest on December 20.

By the 24th, two days after Ceausescu fled by helicopter, the Russians had disappeared. No police records exist to indicate how they left the country.

Everyone in Bucharest agrees that on December 21 the first people to shout "Down with Ceausescu" at the rally the dictator rashly called were a small group on

the fringe of the 5,000-strong crowd.

An army captain stationed at party headquarters that day said: "The crowd first cried, 'We will not be bought'. They only took up the cry Jos Ceausescu (Down with Ceausescu) after hearing it from a handful of people at the back."

In the colonels' dining room of the imposing Casa Armata, or Officers' Club, the commander of a tank regiment says he cannot deny Soviet involvement. Under extravagant chandeliers the name of General Mihai Chitac, the Minister of the Interior, is frequently heard in this context.

General Chitac, before becoming minister, was in charge of chemical weapons, including tear gas supplies. Witnesses in Timisoara on the day of the first police intervention agree that tear gas was initially used but that all the canisters failed to explode.

Mr Corpasescu, who has spent two weeks interviewing people in Timisoara, claims that, had they exploded, the crowd would have dispersed without the shooting which ignited the revolution.

"Without the shooting there would have been no revolution," the tank officer says emphatically.

Those who followed the revolution closely in Prague and in East Berlin will be aware that Soviet string-pulling was very effective. Intelligence specialists have tended to believe that because of the absence of Soviet troops on Romanian soil, such influence on the Romanian revolution was unlikely. But the fact remains that Soviet penetration of the senior ranks of the Romanian Army and the political hierarchy was almost inevitable.



Ordinary Romanians, who were admitted for the first time yesterday to the palace of Nicolae Ceausescu, staring in amazement at the ornate chandelier and marble walls.

Hurd tells Hungarians voting is vital

From Michael Knipe, Budapest

With signs of election apathy appearing in Hungary, Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, warned Hungarians yesterday that it was vitally important for them to vote in what would be their first free election for more than 40 years.

According to an opinion poll published yesterday, only 51 per cent of eligible electors expect to vote on March 25, with 27 per cent expressing uncertainty. Half the voters say they find party politics distasteful.

Mr Hurd emphasized the significance for Hungary's future economy of a high turnout. The success of free elections here would greatly stimulate Western interest in economic links, he said.

Deflecting criticism of a lack of interest from the British business community, Mr Hurd said there had been a steady increase in the number of inquiries from British businessmen. There would be a rapid build-up of business contacts and he would do his best to encourage it, he said.

He said that he believed this interest could turn into investment projects and joint ventures.

The Foreign Secretary was also strongly in favour of greater co-operation between the European Community and

Hungary as reform gathered pace. "You will have to build lots of hotels," said Mr Hurd.

"The only thing which might affect that is if the elections didn't achieve high participation," he added.

The new European bank being set up to fund development in Eastern Europe,

£25 million "knowhow fund" which Britain was offering Hungary over five years from next month.

This money would go to specific projects: Britain was now inviting suggestions and discussing which ones they would be. A team of British experts would visit Budapest next week to examine in detail financial aspects of Hungary's requirements for a free market economy, banking services and privatization. Britain was also sending two experts to the Hungarian Privatization Agency for two years.

During the talks between the two foreign ministers, Mr Hurd had emphasized that, although internal resources had made possible the political reforms so far, they could not be brought to a successful conclusion without Western support. He urged Britain to play a more active role in supporting them.

Mr Hurd said that, in his discussions with members of the two parties leading in the opinion polls — the centre-right Hungarian Democratic Forum and the liberal Alliance of Free Democrats — he had found consensus on the need to move towards a market economy and privatization.

Next week, he said, Mr Kenneth Baker, the chairman of the Conservative Party,



Mr Hurd: Western support crucial to success of reforms.

Private enterprise boost

From Peter Green, Prague

The Czechoslovak Government approved measures on establishing private enterprises and joint stock companies yesterday, but it could not agree on a proposal for restructuring state-owned enterprises.

The private enterprises Bill puts no limit on the number of workers in a private business and allows entrepreneurs to acquire property for their concerns. But the First Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Valer Komarek, acknowledged that government ownership of the vast majority of Czechoslovak real estate and industrial capacity remained an obstacle to private enterprise.

The Bills are expected before the Federal

Assembly within two weeks. Pressure is building on the Government and Parliament to deliver a comprehensive economic reform package, as the country seeks admission to the International Monetary Fund and associate status with the European Community. An IMF delegation is expected in Prague next week. Mr Komarek later said the Government would act soon to prevent tourists, notably Austrians, emptying stores of inexpensive foodstuffs and gasoline. It would consider increasing the foreign currency visitors must exchange and introducing petrol vouchers for foreign cars. Tourists buy foodstuffs for as little as a sixth of prices across the border.

Perks of power linger on in the brave new world

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

It was the pigs, was it not, who crept out at night and daubed "two legs good, four legs bad" on the barn door?

Orwell's *Animal Farm*, that fable of revolution, totalitarian rule and revisionism, haunts the new regimes of Eastern Europe; the pigs, it will be recalled, took on all the characteristics of their loathed rulers, the humans.

Now that the breakneck revolution of 1989 has settled down, there is an abiding question: how to resist the corruption of power? How long will the dissidents-turned-leaders of Poland, Czechoslovakia and East Germany hold out against perks and privileges before starting to govern out of self-interest?

In Romania, of course, these questions are easily answered, since the governing core have been plucked from one or other of the many Ceausescu teams. There are exceptions, such as the fine poet Mircea Dinescu, but in the main the old political class has brushed down its suits and become the new political power.

In Prague and Warsaw it is quite different. President Havel, it is said, sees a child's scooter to drive around the long corridors of the residential castle. If true, there could be no more fitting symbol of the lingering, even whimsical, innocence of the new regime.

But Roland has marched on. Six months into power, with no national

elections to face this year but with their popularity beginning to ebb (the result of a tough, IMF-style budget), the ministers have lost their sense of novelty. The chauffeur-driven Lancia is regarded as a necessity rather than an embarrassing inheritance from the communists.

Mr Jacek Kuron, a dissident for 25 years, was one of the key figures in the drafting of the Gdansk agreement which settled the strikes of 1980 and gave birth to the Solidarity union. The agreement and its later appendages was a leveller's charter, away with the shopping privileges of the party.

Ministerial office carries privilege, as a minister should not waste time

Scrap the holiday homes and special hospital!

Mr Kuron is now Minister of Labour, on the sharp edge of the Solidarity-led Government, since he has to cope with the new phenomenon of mass unemployment — 200,000 and rising rapidly. Last December he was taken ill with heart problems and whisked to hospital. Not the provincial Warsaw hospital, which has beds piled up in the corridor like a traffic jam, where doctors have to make do with one-use syringes for 15 patients, where damp blankets the ceiling. In Emilii Plater Street there is a rather grand

government hospital. It has an ordinary section of 94 beds, a special dispensary (with rare Western medicine), clean floors, no queues, ample staff (including 12 professors of medicine). Within the hospital there is a second, even more privileged section — separate private rooms, including at least one with direct telephones and a colour television. It was here that Mr Kuron received his excellent treatment.

In a country of short supply there is an argument for such a hospital. As Dr Zofia Kuratowska, Speaker of Parliament and a respected doctor, puts it: "In a normally functioning country such a clinic would be immediately dissolved. In Poland, though, you cannot go without it. If the ministers went to ordinary hospitals, then ordinary patients would probably be pushed aside. But such favours should be granted only for the team in office — no family members should profit from it."

That is the nub. Ministerial office carries privilege, at least partly because a minister should not waste time. But his wife and children or former ministers, former politburo members and their many relatives, should not be lumped together to form a privileged class.

Some 14,000 people have access to the hospital on Emilii Plater Street.

The parliament is planning a debate soon on the subject and it should get to the heart of the problem of the *nomenklatura*, and define more precisely what is due to whom. The Government has allocated more than 100 billion zloties (£6 million) for care and maintenance of government holiday resorts. These are usually old aristocratic villas, expropriated by the communists after the war, done up with all the taste of Elena Ceausescu (whose philosophy of interior design has quite a following in the Eastern bloc), and divided into service apartments for the Government, the Politburo and anyone who remotely qualified as part of the ruling class.

The Solidarity parliamentarian — and former underground organiser — Mr Zbigniew Romaszewski, is only one of many critics: "How can

The chauffeur still arrives punctually at Mr Kuron's doorstep to pick him up

the Government urge everyone to tighten belts in the middle of an economic disaster, and yet claim so much money for its own closed resorts?"

Mr Kuron (now recovered) takes the point. The holiday homes should stay, because it would be expensive to convert them into schools. But they should be made available to the public, as should the hospital which treated his defective heart.

Mr Piotr Wierzbicki, commentator of the Solidarity weekly, *Tygodnik Solidarnosc* — and for the time being at least the conscience of

the Government — says Parliament should make over all the buildings to the public. But at the same time, he emphasizes, ministers should get a decent salary.

Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Polish Prime Minister, received a pay rise last month, but he still earns only 2.7 million zloties (about £170) a month; President Jaruzelski earns slightly more. Parliamentary deputies earn 900,000 zloties (£55) a month.

A painting by the Polish master, Makowski, valued at around £22,000, has disappeared from the party building, a sign of the financial and organisational chaos wrought by the collapse of communism. The party was so confident, until the end of last year, that it never bothered to check whether it actually owned the property it occupied.

Now that it is being evicted, there are fierce rows over the estate — does the state or the party own the central committee headquarters in the middle of Warsaw? The question is crucial.

For Solidarity, though, there are also the nagging issues of privilege and the permanence of power. Most Solidarity ministers are praying that their families do not fall sick so that they will not be faced with the ethical dilemma of special medical treatment; some, especially those who were prisoners of the communists, have renounced their holiday home privileges. But the smart chauffeur still arrives punctually at Mr Kuron's doorstep to bring him to work.

TIGRAY, ETHIOPIA



Peter Sharp's reports on ITN News confirm that the people of Tigray, northern Ethiopia, are facing mass starvation, with the death toll mounting daily.

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Election rout highlights cracks in Gandhi party

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

The full extent of the rout of the Congress (I) party in Indian state elections dawned yesterday, and the news could hardly have been more depressing for a party that is plainly starting to come apart. It lost control of at least five states — and possibly as many as seven, when all results are finally declared — in voting on Tuesday. By last night the party had conceded defeat in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party basked in triumph. It won outright in Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh and was likely to capture an overall majority in Rajasthan.

Janata Dal, the party of Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the Prime Minister, registered a stunning win in the eastern state of Orissa, capturing more than three-quarters of the vote, the biggest state victory recorded anywhere in independent India. Congress held 117 seats there before the poll; it now has nine.

Gujarat seemed likely last night to fall to a Bharatiya Janata-Janata Dal coalition. Results from Arunachal Pradesh remained sketchy, with no clear trends.

The Congress debacle came

after a campaign that never properly got off the ground. Mr Rajiv Gandhi focused on the crisis in Kashmir, where Muslim secessionists are staging a mass uprising. It turned out to be a disastrous mistake. Hindu India has clearly been satisfied with the Janata Dal Government's tough security clampdown in the Muslim-dominated Kashmir valley.

The only good news for Congress was in Maharashtra, where an earlier poor performance

Delhi (Reuters) — A bomb blast on a train in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh killed five people yesterday and wounded 16. The Railway Ministry said that the express was at a station in Meerut early in the morning when the bomb went off, wrecking a sleeping-car. It did not appear to be moving at the time, but noted that the train had begun its journey in Amritsar, the Sikhs' holy city in Punjab.

mance was turned round as votes continued coming in late last night. It appeared to be moving marginally ahead of an alliance between Bharatiya Janata and the militant Hindu party, Shiv Sena.

The outcome in Bihar, the northern state that has been plagued by voting frauds and

violence, remained unclear. Trends last night suggested Congress would be ousted in favour of a coalition dominated by Bharatiya Janata.

The overall results are also far from good news for Mr Singh's Janata Dal (People's Party), which depends on the Bharatiya Janata's parliamentary support. Delhi political circles are alive with rumours that Bharatiya Janata intends to join forces with the Janata Dal Government, formally becoming part of the administration rather than supporting it from outside. That would alienate the Communists, who also support the Government from outside.

Certainly some kind of political realignment seems distinctly possible now that Bharatiya Janata has demonstrated its enormous popular strength in national and state elections. Muslim leaders, who view its advance with alarm, are staying stoically silent.

Bharatiya Janata's political breakthrough is explained principally by the party's distinctive make-up: it is unified, well organized, highly disciplined and boasts a talented leadership that is ideologically committed to pro-Hindu policies.

Congress, by contrast, is an

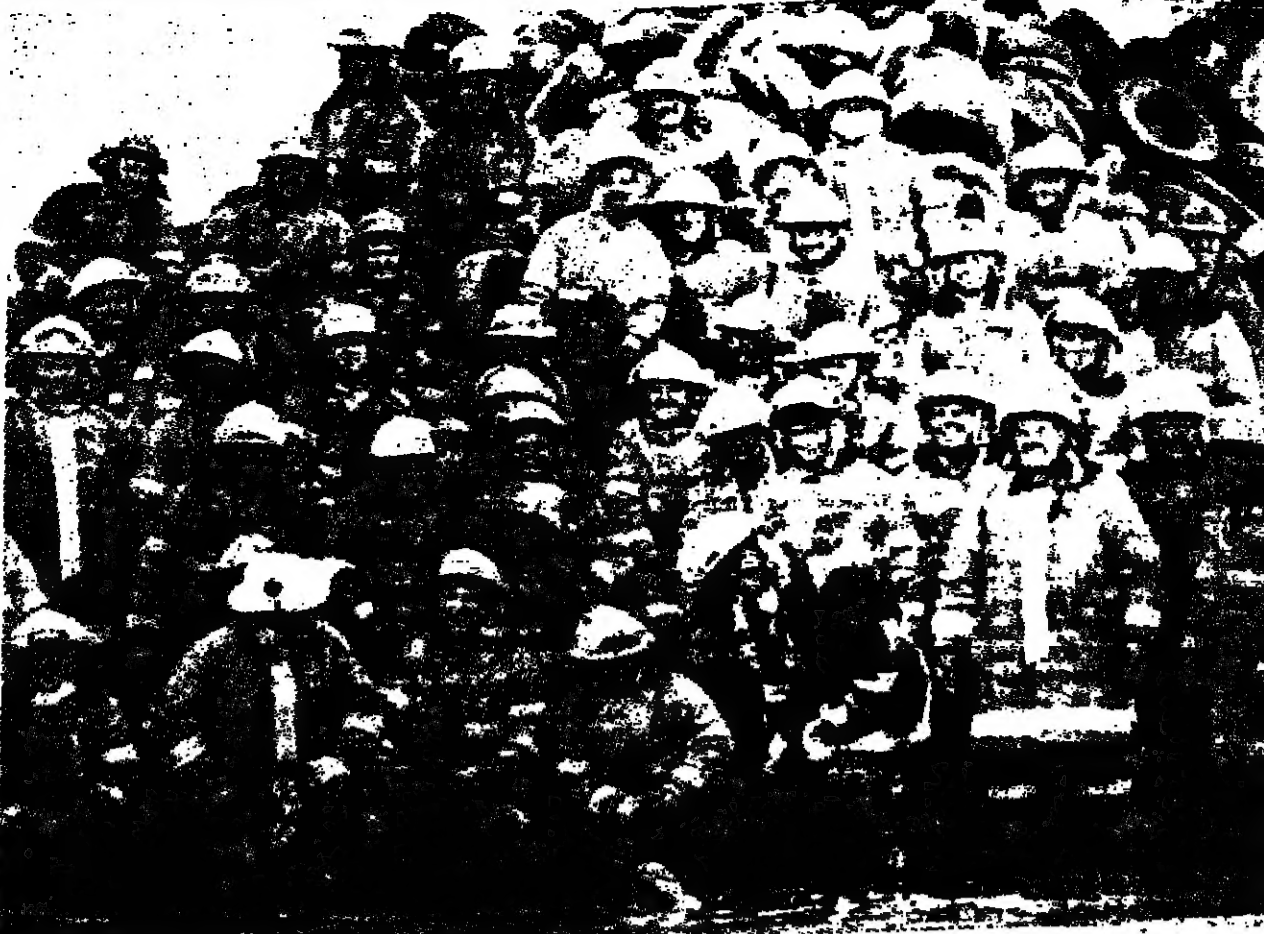
undemocratically structured party of opportunists who lack real political or ideological commitment. Janata Dal is a fragile mish-mash of many parties. The Communists, the only other significant political force in India, have long been powerful in only two states: Kerala and West Bengal.

Growing resentment towards Muslims has helped Bharatiya Janata's rise to prominence. The Kashmir uprising and a fierce Hindu-Muslim dispute over a religious site in the Uttar Pradesh town of Ayodhya have fanned the flames of Hindu fundamentalism.

SRINAGAR — At least 21 people were killed and several wounded yesterday when troops fired on Kashmiri Muslims demanding independence from India, police and witnesses said (Reuters reports).

Police said soldiers fired at demonstrators at Zakura near Srinagar, killing 13 people. The demonstrators were on their way to a procession in the city. In another incident, security forces fired at a procession in Srinagar, killing eight people and wounding several others, witnesses said. They said demonstrators shouted anti-India slogans and threw stones at the troops.

Canadian firemen beat 17-day blaze



Canadian firemen lining up for a victory photograph after putting out a fire at a tyre dump in Hagersville, Ontario. The blaze, which had been raging for 17 days, was caused by arson, the owner of the dump said. It consumed millions of old tyres, forced the evacuation of hundreds of residents, and took the relentless

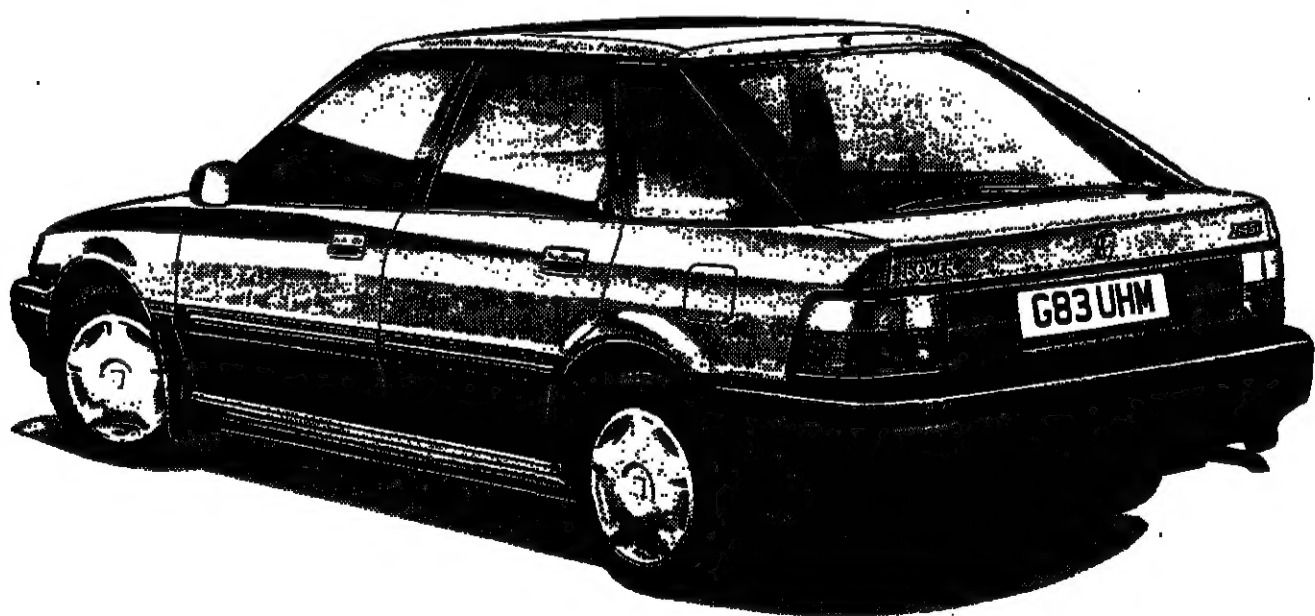
efforts of a 40-member crew of firemen to conquer it (John Best writes from Ottawa). They proved wrong earlier predictions that the fire would continue burning for months. However, extensive tests remain to be carried out to determine the extent of environmental damage, including how much toxic

material from the fire found its way into the water table. "It's out, man, it's history," said Mr Buck Stote, the chief of the volunteer Hagersville fire department. "We're going to spend about a week out there cleaning up and then we're going to have one hell of a party right here in the fire hall," Mr Stote said.

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Recruit scandal haunts Kaifu even in victory

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

In what is becoming an embarrassing inauguration ritual for Japanese prime ministers, the newly re-elected Mr Toshiki Kaifu has been tipped into a scandal after a magazine accused him of concealing donations he had received from the disgraced Recruit company.

Mr Kaifu, who was catapulted to power last autumn — precisely because he appeared to be one of those rarities in Japanese political life, a man with clean hands — denies the accusation.

But the Socialist-led opposition parties, which failed to oust Mr Kaifu in general elections just over a week ago, said yesterday that they would question the Prime Minister in Parliament about the allegation. They can scarcely believe their luck in finding still more political mileage in Recruit's apparently boundless generosity.

Shukan Bunshun, a respected weekly magazine with a 700,000 circulation, yesterday accused Mr Kaifu of receiving 26.3 million yen (£100,000) from the Recruit company between 1983 and 1987. On becoming Prime Minister last August, he admitted receiving only 14.4 million yen from Recruit, all of it legally.

Shukan Bunshun says it has a list of donations drafted by Recruit, and says the list is in the hands of the Tokyo public prosecutors who are pressing bribery charges against several businessmen and politicians.

Most awkwardly, the magazine's allegations hit the streets yesterday morning, when Mr Kaifu was still looking bleary-eyed after having fought into the pre-dawn hours of Wednesday morning to assemble a Cabinet that he promised voters was Recruit-free.

The magazine smells hypocrisy and Tokyo cynics are wondering whether some of the enemies that Mr Kaifu has made among the faction bosses of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party by his sudden hotter-than-thou haughtiness have leaked word of the extra donations by way of revenge. Mr Kaifu told report-

ers: "I have checked thoroughly and reported everything. It is hard to prove the fact that I did not receive (extra donations) when I did not receive them. There are many opinions in the world and, as far as I am concerned, I have released everything we are aware of."

Mr Kazuyoshi Hanada, the managing editor of Shukan Bunshun, said: "We cannot reveal the source of the list, but we have fully confirmed it and are confident about its credibility."

In August the Prime Minister was still shouting his victory "Banzai" when a gossip-filled weekly ran a cover story under the headline "The Truth About Toshiki Kaifu's Illegitimate Child Scandal", in which it alleged that he had had at least one affair and possibly fathered a daughter out of wedlock. Mr Kaifu angrily dismissed the suggestions as "a complete lie". The allegations were later retracted.

Mr Sosuke Uno, Mr Kaifu's predecessor, had no hope of refuting the attacks against him in like vein. A week after he took over the reins last June from Mr Noboru Take-shita, one of the Recruit affair's most prominent victims, Mr Uno became the subject of Japan's first political sex scandal.

His brave denials became embarrassing when the bar girls he had courted began talking openly to journalists of his bedroom habits.

Leading article, page 15



Mr Kaifu: Chosen as a man whose hands were clean.

British reporter free

Nairobi — Julian O'zanne, aged 25, the British journalist, arrested in Khartoum for unspecified security reasons nine days ago, was released yesterday and ordered to leave Sudan in 24 hours, a Sudanese Embassy spokesman here said (A Correspondent writes). A security source in Khartoum was quoted as saying that Mr O'zanne, who lives in Nairobi, had been held because he had documents unrelated to his work.

Guard killed

Guatemala City (AP) — A Guatemalan security guard at the Swedish Embassy was found beaten and shot to death in an embassy bathroom in what appeared to be a politically motivated attack.

Medellin hit

Bogotá (Reuters) — Seven bombs rocked Medellin, Colombia's second largest city, partly blacking it out. Radio stations said a little-known left-wing guerrilla group had claimed responsibility.

Claim denied

Peking (Reuters) — China has dismissed as groundless a protest by foreign journalists against police surveillance and intimidation of their Chinese contacts.

Five jailed

Peking (AFP) — Five Chinese nationals accused of spying for Taiwan have been jailed by a Shanghai court. One of them, Zhou Yan, charged with spying during last year's pro-democracy demonstrations, was jailed for life.

Finance post

Caracas (Reuters) — Señor Roberto Focattera, president of the state-run Industrial Bank of Venezuela, will take office as Finance Minister next week. Señor Egle Ibarra, the incumbent, said.

Career girls

Madrid (AFP) — Prostitutes in central Madrid have completed formalities to set up a professional association, the first of its kind in Spain.

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March 1 1990

PARLIAMENT

Labour plans for council cash 'are worst of all'

Labour's proposals for local authority finance were the worst of all, Mrs Thatcher said when defending her policies at question time.

Jubilant Labour MPs were particularly delighted with the opportunity to raise the subject of Wednesday's resignation of the Conservative whip by 18 councillors on the West Oxfordshire District Council.

One called it a "popular uprising" by "reformist elements in the Tory Party". Mr Neil Kinnock said it made clear that Mrs Thatcher was running out of friends as well as excuses.

First to speak was Mr Mike Watson (Glasgow Central, Lab), who asked if she recalled saying recently that once people got used to the poll tax they would wonder why they had not had it before (loud Labour laughter).

"Is she so out of touch that she is unaware that in Scotland, where the poll tax has been in operation already for a year, it is as unworkable, as unacceptable and for many families, as unpayable as it has ever been?"

Mrs Thatcher: No, it is a very much fairer system (Labour laughter) — than domestic rates which preceded it... It is patently unfair that, under the previous system, only half of those who had the vote in local authorities paid the rates. That is the primary unfairness.

Under the rating system, the single person in one house paid the same rates as four or five people in the next. That too was patently unfair.

Mr Kinnock, leader of the Opposition: Does the Prime Minister have any plans to make an official visit to west Oxfordshire? (loud laughter).

Mrs Thatcher: No, I rather wish I did, to explain a thing or two (loud laughter).

Mr Kinnock said that he hoped that this signified a new readiness on her part to listen. The Conservative councillor who resigned the whip last night explained that they were resigning "in protest at the Government's local government policies in general and those on housing and the community charge in particular".

"When her own councillors are blaming her Government, is it not clear that she is running out of both friends and excuses?"

Mrs Thatcher: But not explanations of the facts. Of course, I know that he is never overburdened by facts.

The community charge of £412 is very high and the situation is made worse by simple and very brief (loud Labour laughter).

Oxfordshire County Council is increasing its spending by three times the level of inflation. That is Labour-Liberal policy. They want to put up the community charge as much as they can so that they can blame us instead of putting the blame on themselves where it should rest.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South Staffordshire, Con) said that some seventy Conservative MPs had indicated that education spending should now be transferred to central government. Would the Prime Minister give further earnest consideration to the possible advantages of such a move?

Mrs Thatcher said that it would not be right for the administration of education to go to central government. It would be a retrograde step.

If it were to be transferred, a very good proportion of the revenue support grant and business rate would have to be transferred with it, otherwise there would be a colossal increase in income tax, which would suit nobody.

Mr John McFall (Dumarton, Lab) said that, in view of the popular uprising in west Oxfordshire, by reformist elements in the Tory Party, against an unjust and unresponsive Government, the Prime Minister should grant their request for *perestroika*.

Was it true that she had telephoned the Foreign Secretary (Mr Douglas Hurd, MP for the relevant Oxfordshire constituency) in Budapest this week to consult the Communist old guard as to what to do (laughter)? She would tell him that it was now safer to go walkabout in Budapest than it was in Berkshire or Oxfordshire (Labour cheers).

Mrs Thatcher said that her friends in Oxfordshire undoubtedly wished that Oxfordshire County Council was under Conservative control, which would have meant a much lower community charge.

Mr Dennis Canavan (Falkirk West, Lab) asked when the Prime Minister was going to face up to the fact that she and her poll tax would be defeated by a combination of people power in Scotland and deepening electoral unpopularity in England and Wales.

If she was not concerned about losing the Mid-Staffordshire by-election, and the resignation of the 18 councillors, she should listen to the increasing number of Conservative MPs who were beginning to realize that by voting for the poll tax they were like turkeys voting for an early Christmas.

Mrs Thatcher said that Mr Canavan should recall what happened in Scotland after the domestic revolution of the rates after seven years. It would be 17 years if it occurred in England. There was such an outcry that the Government was bound to take some action.

The change to the community charge was working well in Scotland on the whole and was infinitely preferable to Labour's proposal for a roof tax.

They had modified it by reference to income tax, which meant that everyone's affairs would have to be revealed to local authorities. Labour's proposals were the worst of all.

Inflation hope

During the exchanges Mr Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar, Con) said that the London Business School and the National Institute for Research in Social Research had been predicting over the past few days that the level of inflation was likely to have reduced to about 4.5 per cent by the turn of next year and that mortgage rates were quite likely at that time to be under 10 per cent.

"Does she not agree that at least as much significance should be placed on these medium-term predictions than on the understandable gloom occasioned by one month's admittedly bad trade figures?" (laughter).

Mrs Thatcher said that inflation and mortgage rates "will be likely to fall if we stick for the coming months to high rates of interest in order to cut the money supply and get inflation down. We must do that, until the rate of inflation goes down and other things will follow."

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Leading article, page 15



Mr Dennis Canavan: Conservative MPs voting for the poll tax are like turkeys voting for an early Christmas.

Welsh Office to give £50,000 to storms disaster fund

The Welsh Office is to make a donation of £50,000 to the disaster fund set up by the Mayor of Cardiff to help the people of North Wales hit by this week's storms, Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Wales, announced in the Commons.

Opening the annual St David's Day debate on the principality, he said that he would be visiting the area next week and the Welsh Office would send a senior engineer to give professional advice.

Two thousand people had had to be evacuated and he paid tribute to those who had worked hard and effectively in dealing with the problems.

One of the main problems was damage to the rail link to Anglesey and elsewhere. British Rail was anxious to get the line repaired quickly, in days rather than weeks. He would look at any lesson to be drawn

ST DAVID'S DAY DEBATE

from the flooding. British Rail would have the resources to do whatever repair work was required on sea defences and maintenance. They would be discussing the situation with Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport.

The emergence of new businesses in Wales had been encouraging, despite the loss of 58,000 jobs in the steel and coal industries during the 1980s.

Unemployment had been falling and his objective was to reduce it to below the level at present in the South-east.

Wales had the greatest concentration of Japanese investment in Europe and the latest investment by Toyota would bring

other companies to the principality. In the 1990s, Wales would be one of the most prosperous and successful regions of Europe.

Mr Barry Jones, chief Opposition spokesman on Wales, said that there was much in the principality that was going badly wrong.

Nothing short of a skill revolution was needed if Britain and Wales were to compete in 1992, but only last month four skill centres in Wales were closed and there was no sign of the Government's determination to close the gap. Without that revolution, we should be left behind.

Mr Keith Raffan (Delyn, Con) criticized the three-month delay in setting up an internal review after a salmonella outbreak in his constituency last July in which more than 400 people became ill and at least two died.

Kincora home case raised at questions

Questions about the date on which allegations of homosexual activity at Kincora became known to the Northern Ireland Office on January 24, 1980 as a result of an article in the *Irish Independent*.

Mr Kevin McNamara, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said that Mr Cope would be aware of allegations that the Army informed the RUC "of what was going on" before that date.

Mr Cope said that he would consider Mr McNamara's point. But it did not change what he had said.

The Rev Martin Smyth (Belfast South, UUP) asked if Mr Cope knew of the claims that Mr

Justice Hughes [who led an inquiry into the affair] had said that all the papers concerning Kincora had not been made available to him.

Mr Cope said that he was not aware of Mr Justice Hughes making that claim or, indeed, of any papers not having been made available to him.

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House of Lords

Bishop opposes arts lotteries

The following report appeared in later editions yesterday.

A proposal for a large, privately run lottery to raise money for the arts, sport and the environment was sharply opposed by the Bishop of Manchester, the Right Rev Stanley Booth-Clibborn, during a short debate in the Lords.

He told peers that this was already, in many senses, a mean nation and they should be careful of anything that "gives a further twist to that meanness".

He expressed fears about "giving" always being associated with getting something, or the hope of something, in return. There was also a danger of a proper sense of taxation and public funding being eroded.

"The answer lies in public education and in generating enthusiasm for the causes which there are. It is a slow road. It offers no immediate relief from the enormous crises which face us."

"But if we were to go down the road of establishing a national lottery, we might be doing damage to the social fabric of this country which, at the moment, we cannot see but which would become visible in later years."

The debate was opened by Lord Birkett (Ind), who moved a motion calling attention to the advantages of such a lottery. A single national lottery, once it was up and running, in its second year, was likely to produce a gross figure of something like £2.5 billion a year.

Of that figure, 20 per cent would go into administration. That would leave £2 billion, half of which would go on prizes. There would be some prizes of £1 million and lots at £2 or £5. Tickets would cost £1.

Among the uses (for the remaining sum) would be more galleries and the buying of works of art.

Lord Dunsheath of Kingsbridge (Lib Dem) was enthusiastically in favour of any plan to make more money available for the arts. That was irresistible. He said that Lord Gooden, when chairman of the Arts Council a few years ago, had said that he would take money from anywhere for the arts, including a brothel. "I share that view."

Lady Ewart-Biggs, for the Opposition, said that she saw a danger that British governments would be tempted to withdraw funding from the arts, sport and the environment if there was a national lottery for them.

Earl Ferrers, Minister of State, Home Office, said that it was unlawful to promote or conduct lotteries here, including those based outside Great Britain.

The Government's present understanding was that the law on lotteries would not be affected by the single market in 1992. It had no plans to amend the law, "but we will continue to consider whether and, if so, how some of the complexities might be addressed."

Mr John Cope, Minister of State for Northern Ireland:

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Mr John Cope, Minister of State for Northern Ireland:

night version of the GR5, was expected later this year.

Opening the debate, Mr Clark said that the RAF was now recruiting women after the decision to have them as pilots, navigators and engineers, announced last July. The first year target was to have 25 women pilots, 10 navigators and 4 air engineers. Some had begun their training after selection on the same criteria as men.

Mr Allan Rogers, an Opposition spokesman on defence, said that it was a step forward that women were being trained to fly jets, but whether they should fly in combat was matter for greater public discussion. He would have reservations about that.

Was the Government going to make some form of recompense to the junior ranks over poll tax? They could be facing a tenfold increase over the rates.

Mr Clark said the Government was looking at a new way of calculating the community charge to be paid by Servicemen. Under present proposals, no Serviceman would have a liability greater than £1 above the national average.

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Harrier trainers will cost £200m

The following report appeared in later editions yesterday.

The Ministry of Defence is to order 14 new Harrier two-seat training aircraft at a cost of £200 million. Mr Alan Clark, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, announced the order in a debate on the Royal Air Force, said that the aircraft, known as T-10s, would meet the training requirements for those who were to fly the Harrier GR5 and GR7, and would have full operational capability.

Delivery of the first GR7, the

night version of the GR5, was expected later this year.

Opening the debate, Mr Clark said that the RAF was now recruiting women after the decision to have them as pilots, navigators and engineers, announced last July. The first year target was to have 25 women pilots, 10 navigators and 4 air engineers. Some had begun their training after selection on the same criteria as men.

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Lords will debate PR

By Sheila Gunn
Political Reporter

The House of Lords will be urged to reform the voting system so that all MEPs are elected by proportional representation.

A Bill introduced by the Democrat peer, Lord Bonham-Carter, would abolish Britain's isolation as the only nation to elect members of the European Parliament by the first-past-the-post method.

He predicted yesterday widespread support from the many Conservative peers with strong European links, including Lord Cockfield, Lord Prior, Lord Carver and Lord Blake.

The Government is opposed to the change; nevertheless, a proportional representation system operates for Northern Ireland's elections to the European Parliament to guarantee that the minority community in Ulster is



Lord Bonham-Carter: Pro-dicts Tory support.

system throughout the Community. The European Parliament has a committee drawing up a framework for the most suitable form of electoral system to adopt.

His idea is for regional constituencies in Britain to return MEPs through a single transferable vote (STV) system of proportional representation. Electors would list their candidates in order of preference.

Last year, 45 Labour and 32 Conservative MEPs were elected, winning a total of 72.5 per cent of the vote. The Democrats and the Greens won no seats, although they polled more than 20 per cent of the vote.

A proportional representation system would ensure that the minority parties stood a better chance of being represented in the European Parliament.

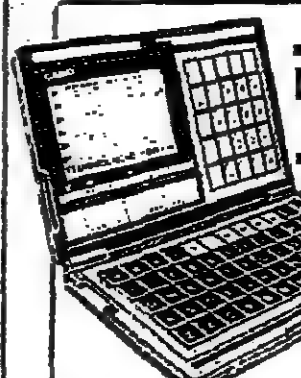
The Bill will have a second reading debate in the Lords on Wednesday week.

Legal Bill decision

An attempt to write into the Courts and Legal Services Bill a provision that solicitors could not enter into multi-disciplinary practices with other professions was rejected by a government majority of 18.

Lord Mischau, Opposition spokesman, moving the amendment when report stage resumed in the Lords, said that if there were not such a provision there could be multi-disciplinary practices combining solicitors and barristers, bound by strict professional rules, with others such as surveyors and estate agents carrying on a perfectly honourable business, but in no way governed by the same strict professional disciplinary rules.

The Lord Chancellor (Lord Mackay of Clashfern) said that the Law Society would be making rules to protect the public.



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Sunday post for whole country

The Post Office is to reintroduce Sunday collections throughout the country from this autumn, Lord Hesketth, Under Secretary of State for Environment, said in the Lords at question time.

Lord Williams of Elvel, for the Opposition, sought an assurance that that would not affect weekday services.

Lord Hesketth replied that the Post office was committed to an improvement in services, including those from Monday to Saturday.

Lord Kinnaird said that yesterday he had received a letter posted on December 12, 1989.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be: Monday: Aviation and Maritime Security Bill, remaining stages. Private Bills.

Tuesday: Debate on Opposition motion entitled: "The balance of payments deficit, high interest rates and the impact on industry".

Wednesday: Debate on members' business.

Thursday: Food Safety Bill, second reading.

Friday: Private members' Bills: Entertainment (Increased Penalties) Bill and Representation of the People Bill, second readings.

The main business in the House of Lords is expected to be: Monday: Coal Industry Bill, report. Property Services Agency and Crown Suppliers Bill, second reading. Debate on threats to Mr Salmon Rushdie.

Tuesday: Human Fertilization and Embryology Bill, report, first day.

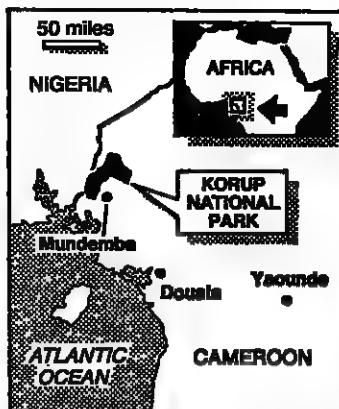
Wednesday: Debates on Citizens Advice Bureaux and on the pressure on NHS staff.

Thursday: Pensions (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill and Civil Aviation Authority (Borrowing Powers) Bill, committee stages. Government Trading Bill, second reading.

Parliament today Commons (9.30): Private members' Bills: Planning Permission (Demolition of Houses) Bill and Radiation Exposed Crown Employees (Benefits) Bill, second readings.

An axe over nature's nursery

Alan Franks reports from Cameroon, where the virgin rain forest is providing a conservation model for the world. But will loggers let it survive?



When the Prince of Wales visits the troubled republic of Cameroon in West Africa later this month, he will find a country whose tribal occupants are dancing a grim life-and-death ballet with the lumber industry.

Cameroon is home to the Korup, the world's oldest tract of virgin rainforest, now in mortal danger from the £60 million-a-year activities of major European timber companies.

Under threat, too, is a British-led rescue operation which embodies the Prince's survival blueprint for the forests of the Third World, seen by scientists as immensely important to the future of medicinal research.

The 250,000 acres of Korup, designated a national park four years ago, and containing more than 3,000 species of rare plant and 25 per cent of the world's known primate types, are becoming the arena for a race against time as the land-hungry loggers claw their way to the edges of the forest.

The Surrey-based World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), which is orchestrating the rescue mission with the Cameroon government, has appealed to the Prince to visit the forest during his visit; but the request has been turned down by Buckingham Palace on the grounds that only helicopters belonging to the Queen's Flight are considered suitable for his use.



Vanishing forest: Mr Clive Wicks, who oversees British conservation, watches a load of logs trucked away

This has bitterly disappointed the British leaders of the mission, both here and in Cameroon, as well as their 60 trained workers in the remote and rugged interior. For in a controversial speech to Friends of the Earth at Kew Gardens last month, the Prince stressed the need for "buffer zones" of productive farmland around conservation areas to remove the need for local tribesmen to hunt reserves of wildlife for food.

Such a zone is precisely what is being created in a two-year-old prototype scheme at Korup — which has as a consultant Mr Brian Johnson, one of the Prince's inner circle of conservation advisers. Through a slow, often painful, process of education in sustainable farming and agroforestry, villagers are being encouraged to control and confine the hunting of "bush-meat", the catch-all phrase for almost any form of game. Progress has been extraordinary, but it is being jeopardized by land-hungry loggers who are moving into the buffer zones and destroying designated hunting and farming areas.

The outcome of the Cameroon conflict is being watched with intense interest by conservationists the world over, for if Korup founders, so, too, will the hope of emulating the model in other Third World countries, including the beleaguered giant Brazil.

It would be easy to cast the timber companies as the only

Many of the 3,000 plant species found in Korup have traditionally been used by its inhabitants for medicinal purposes. One of the aims of preserving the forest is to harness their potential for the development of drugs and remedies. For example, the leaves and roots of several of the Malva and Hibiscus family are used by tribesmen as poultices, and taken internally for coughs and urinary disorders. The twigs of the African willow, *Salix Capensis*, contain the substance salicin, which is used for the treatment of rheumatism by traditional doctors all over Africa, such as those found in Senegal (*Hippocratus*) and thorn apple (*Datura*), are used for the relief of pain and insomnia, while others, like caffeine from *Cola*, stimulate the

brain or spinal cord and relieve nervous depression. So far, 90 naturally-produced chemical substances have been identified in Korup, 38 of which are new to medical science, and are to be examined, at laboratories in Yaounde to assess their medicinal potential.

The exploitation of these "forest medicines" is intended in the short term to reduce Cameroon's dependence on imported pharmaceuticals. The longer-term goal is to conduct a programme, based near Korup, of laboratory tests and field trials of natural products. This will also focus on the selection of superior genetic material for cloning, leading to the development of more disease-resistant plants for cultivation.

villains of the piece — but they are acting with the tacit compliance of the Government in the capital, Yaounde. Last year the Government, which is led by president Mr Paul Biya, granted 150 logging licenses, some in the buffer zones which still do not enjoy the legal protection given to the Korup. At present, 23 of these are being operated by Cameroonian concerns, while the rest are sublet to overseas firms, most of which are French. It is an open secret that a large proportion of the companies are not paying their government taxes. M. Chretien Varnier, local manager of operations for the French Société d'Exploitation des Bois Camerouniennes, concedes that some have arrears of up to 10 years.

His company works a 26,000-hectare tract in one of the buffer zones, on a concession originally granted to the Cameroon-based CITL, and subsequently sublet. The chairman of CITL is Mr Nzo Ekangaki, a former secretary-general of the Organization of African Unity, and now an adviser to the president. Another firm from the south-west of the country, Feko Timber Industries, has sought permission to log on another buffer zone, a large parcel of land in the Toko area, adjacent to the national park. And a German company, Timber Industries (Cameroon), owned by Hans O. Lutkens of Hamburg, has applied for an exploration licence for a tract which actually includes part of the park. Although it seems

inconceivable that this last bid will succeed, its preparation is a measure of the companies' audacity.

Many companies are acting in complete disregard of the Government's own *chahier*, or rule-book, which stipulates that timber exploiters should not fell or destroy trees which form part of the economic crop structure of the neighbouring communities. None of these communities receives any financial benefit from the logging operations. Five years ago the government brought to an end the arrangement by which the companies undertook to help local villages with the building of schools and other facilities.

The Société d'Exploitation has caused an uproar among the local

village chiefs, who claim it has knocked out invaluable stocks of the Njabe tree, the bark of which produces an oil that the villagers use in cooking. In the small town of Mundemba, five miles from the park's southern border, logging has aroused the anger of the 300-year-old Ekpe leopard cult, the masonic social structure which has played a traditional part in the community affairs of rural Cameroon and parts of Nigeria. Recently one of the cult's elders went to the front door of a logging boss to declare an Ekpe curse on tree-felling.

Meanwhile, in the country's principal port of Douala, from which the forest hardwoods are exported to EC nations, including Britain, the logs are beginning to accumulate in unshipped piles as importing nations register their disquiet about the pillage in the interior.

This whole drama is playing itself out against the extraordinary backdrop of a country seeking membership of the British Commonwealth nearly 30 years after it moved to independence from the status of Anglo-French condominium which had obtained since the Germans lost possession at the close of the First World War. It also comes at a time when the Rome-based international body TFAP (Tropical Forestry Action Plan) wants to see Cameroon's quota of protected forests rise from 5 per cent of the land surface to 20 per cent. While the minority community of Eng-

lish speakers — about one fifth of the 11 million population — welcomes the renewed assistance of the British, there are members of the French-speaking community who see it as a symptom of neo-colonialism or even some latterday missionary ethic.

The efforts of the British team of young rural development advisers, who spend weeks in villages several days' walk from their base in Mundemba, are overseen by WWF's senior conservation and development executive, Mr Clive Wicks, a former parachute officer and old Africa hand of 30 years standing.

If things were to get worse, Mr Wicks would not hesitate to invoke the influence of the Duke of Edinburgh. For the Prince's father is not only president of WWF, he is also passionately keen to see Korup form a larger regional area of conservation with the Oban Hills across the Nigerian border. These projects form the flagship of Britain's contribution to the greening of Africa, and have been launched along a course hitherto untried. Again, if this founders, what price the lesser vessels?

After a week in the region, two strong images of dereliction endure. The first is the rubble of Unilever's bankrupt palm oil plantation at Ndiang, and the rusting hulks of the cargo boats which were the sole means of transport in the days when the road gave out at Ekondo Titi, 20 miles to the south. They lie there like vast toys gathering rust in the garden. Two years ago the company left the plantation, which had employed 700 staff, in the hands of the liquidator.

The second image is a natural counterpart. Just north of a struggling village called Metak, half a day's walk from Mundemba, stands a majestic waterfall — or rather the site of a waterfall. Today the ribbon has thinned to a thread as the waters higher up in the catchment have been stemmed by over-logging of the land, for the oxygen emitted by the trees of the forest is an integral part of the rain cycle. Much more of this and the ecosystem, and with it the human economy, will be destroyed. The crayfish will perish and would never be replaced other than by artificial stocking, which is considered uncertain and prohibitively expensive. With them would perish the vital fisheries in the mangrove swamps at the mouth of the Rio del Rey. Like the rest of the battles raging in and around Korup, this one will not be won and lost at some comfortably distant point in the next century, but in the next four or five years.

The question now is whether a forest whose essence is its history will be allowed new life as a genetic nursery, or whether it is to be vandalized before the child is walking.

The woman who invented perestroika

Tatyana Zaslavskaya risked her freedom to denounce the Soviet economic planners. Now she is one of Gorbachov's closest advisers

As glasnost does not yet extend to embrace the gossip columnist and the columnist in the USSR, because she invented the language of change, long before it was safe to do so.

Professor Shanin described the top-level conference of Soviet agricultural scientists in 1983, when Mrs Zaslavskaya produced a systematic and withering critique of the economic system and warned how the economy of the Soviet Union would "run smack into a wall" unless its direction changed. "What she said was wrong, what she said would happen has happened."

But that did not save her, her friends and fellow-scientists from being harassed by the KGB and disciplined by the party, while their work was suppressed until leaked (to become famous as the *Novosibirsk Manifesto*) to the Western media.

"She was totally dumbfounded by the hullabaloo she caused, and unaware of the danger," Professor Shanin said. "Yes, a sort of innocence. She thought that as a dutiful citizen, using polite and scholarly terms, she could explain what was going wrong — oblivious to the fact that a fraction of the sort of stuff she said openly had sent others to prison."

"She did well to survive the storm. But what matters is that Gorbachov, once he came to power, brought her into his conclave of advisers, where she remains. And that the very terms she used about 'the lack of attention to the human factor' and 'planning is made as though people do not exist' and 'apathy and incompetence arise from the lack of social justice' have been used word for word in his major speeches."

Mrs Zaslavskaya said yes, she had been naïve rather than coura-

geous in that Siberian address. The world had learned to call it *perestroika*, and use those utterances as part of the language of political change. But when these things were said, they were addressed at the collapsing economy, and attempts to find solutions in the motivation of the people rather than sentences of condemnation for political masters.

"We see now we were a first part of a change that will be compared in importance to the revolution of October 1917. But at the time it was something that happened that was not of my intention or desire. I have never seen that manifesto of my own speech. Only 150 copies were made, each sent to a named



Forecast: Tatyana Zaslavskaya says Gorbachov has perhaps a year to improve the lives of ordinary Russians

scientist and had to be signed for by him: the general Soviet public was not permitted to know.

"But it is not right to say I gave new ideas. Every major scientist had been thinking this way. All I did was to sow seeds in prepared ground. And I was speaking from observation. I had been an economist, working at my desk on 'pure' economic theories. Then, in 1966, I became a sociologist and made many expeditions to rural communities in Siberia, as well as to the rural elite of the collectives. Now I knew that the theories were worthless. For the Soviet people life was a failure. Their dissatisfaction was rising and would not be contained."

She could not have predicted how that Siberian snowball, once set rolling, would sweep on to all the margins of the Soviet empire. "I did not predict. I have never seen a paper anywhere that imagined the phenomena of this year: to say that Soviet workers would blockade the railways, that miners would strike, that people would pull down the fences at the frontiers and so on... to such suggestions any scientist would have laughed."

'She is one of the most influential women in the USSR; she invented the language of change long before it was safe to do so'

is impossible to have *perestroika* succeed without much activity from below. We cannot have a clean and obedient society if we want active people: there is no way to free only the good people and keep chains on the bad. What we see is not civilized, but it is a necessary stage."

With the union coming apart at its seams, the monopoly of the Communist Party under challenge, was Mrs Zaslavskaya not a little afraid of a strong reaction from the old guard? "That is a real danger. The democratic movement is stronger, but it is not united nor as cohesive as the old regime, which has in its hands all the forces and all the apparatus of government. It is important, therefore, that democrats succeed in the elections at all levels in the next weeks. Then they can change the personnel of the state apparatus and hold the mechanisms of change."

With the tanks and troops to hand, will the old regime passively permit this breathtaking assault on its privileges? "It is 50-50," Mrs Zaslavskaya said, explaining that the minds of the military continue to be unknowable. As sociologists, Mrs Zaslavskaya, an Academician, and her colleagues could ask questions of any civilians but "soldiers, officers were not permitted to give answers. Nor were the KGB. No members of the *nomenklatura* would answer. Or, at least, truthfully. Therefore it is impossible to say what is in the mind of the army and security... they remain a closed imperial society, buttoned up. And their attitude to the upheaval in our society remains a very open question."

Mrs Zaslavskaya looked the essential housewife when discussing the shortages in Russian shops ("so little fresh food — and the quality of the boots and gloves... Fahl"). But the scientist re-emerged. "Our last surveys showed that 86 per cent of people report that things are worse than

last year." Yes, it would be useful if the West helped Gorbachov by helping meet this immediate demand. But we have the problem of distribution.

"Getting more goods into the USSR, then to let them fall into the hands of the *apparatchiks*, would only increase dissatisfaction and the danger. It is much discussed that the problem is sabotage. The reactionaries do not want things to seem better. We asked a trade union to inquire and in every branch of an industry with 10,000 shops it found goods hidden in storerooms. We put them on the shelves. But it was a one-off action: they were soon back to the bad ways. Only by making shopkeepers private will we change."

Surveys by her centre, the MORI of Mother Russia, help provide glimpses of public opinion. "One survey showed that the US is the first country Russians want to visit, and have export business with. Our Man of the Year last year was, naturally, Gorbachov. With 56 per cent. Second was Ronald Reagan with 30 per cent. In the Woman of the Year, first place was Margaret Thatcher with 25.5 per cent. Raisa Gorbachov was second. With 5.3 per cent."

Such intriguing human snippets are rare in Mrs Zaslavskaya's book, which seemed not long on optimism. Is Russia's future that of anarchy or advance? "In the short term? This is the decisive year. It will depend on our own activity. If we can see that the democratic way will be chosen then the new Soviet will be peaceable and legal. But if the extreme right [by which she means the extreme left] is forceful and reactive, then this will be only for a time. In all cases it will be impossible to go back to the old Soviet Union. The people everywhere are ready to fight. Now they are awake," said the woman who had first awoken them.

Brian James

Tyranny — down but perhaps not out



BARBARA AMIEL

A very earnest young man on television this week implored me not to "gloat" over the results of the Nicaraguan election. He had those teeny wire-rimmed glasses, and his hair was combed back as if he were Robert Redford playing Jay Gatsby. I suppose he was from Harvard or Yale. He assured me that President Bush was not "gloating" over the results, which seemed to me an awful waste of being right. Surely, he and Mrs Bush allowed themselves a five-minute session of crowing in their breakfast nook before putting on the *faux* pearls and *grivolas*?

One wonders at what shrine the left will worship now? My sister is taking her three children on a holiday to Cuba next week. "I want them to see a Stalinist regime," she said, packing the mosquito repellent and Instamatic camera. I kept my mouth shut about the Nicaraguan election. Even while confidently predicting events in every corner of the USSR, I wrote not a word about Mr Ortega's chances of becoming democratically elected. Latin America simply isn't my beat. My commentary on Nicaraguan affairs has been limited to recounting the obvious. I was particularly astonished by the flagrant economic corruption of the regime. The Sandinistas created a system in which virtually every activity, from selling bread to fixing a leaking drain, required a licence issued — and sold — by the government. This enabled patronage to be extended on a scale that made feudalism look positively egalitarian.

Incidentally, if you want to read a very telling account of the Sandinista regime, get hold of a copy of the book by Jaime Chamorro Cardenal, one of the sons of Violeta de Chamorro. *La Prensa: The Republic of Paper* (Freedman House, New York) gives a remarkable insight into the intimidation and hush of the Sandinistas.

What is most interesting are the accounts of Sandinista-organized visits for foreigners to *La Prensa* — the newspaper that Violeta de Chamorro headed after the assassination of her husband, the publisher — intended to demonstrate that free speech was alive and well. The groups, writes Mr Chamorro, generally believed what they wanted to believe.

On one occasion, the president of the Independent Liberal Party (and previously

minister of labour for four years in the Sandinista government) told a group of foreign visitors that the Sandinista television show *De Cara al Pueblo*, in which ordinary citizens supposedly asked questions of Sandinista leaders, was arranged beforehand. A newly arrived tourist got up and shouted: "That's a lie!" I wondered if it was Jane Fonda or Glynis Kinnoch.

It is not yet against the law for newspaper columnists to write about subjects of which they know nothing. But since everyone down there in Nicaragua was predicting a Sandinista victory, I simply assumed they must know something that I did not. Now

'Let's all just gloat a minute or two before blind envy descends'

that it turned out the way it did, it seems rather inevitable. On the other hand, I was not surprised that Daniel Ortega called an election. Having utterly ruined his country's economy and faced with a Soviet Union that would no longer bankroll him, he probably had no choice. His only chance was to win an election, thereby legitimizing himself with the West and giving liberals in the United States a chance to re-finance him.

I suppose General Ortega may have swallowed his own propaganda and believed in his popularity. After all, he managed to do better than any Communist regime anywhere else might do. No communist party in Eastern Europe would

get more than 20 per cent or so of the vote, and Ortega did get 40 per cent. The problem communism has is that it is impossible for it to get elected in the first place. To ask for re-election — so to speak — after the people have seen them in power and know precisely what the system involves, strains all credulity. I find it hard to understand why Sandinista hardliners allowed General Ortega to put the party in that situation. They stayed in power by not asking for power. Indeed, my own view is that the 40 per cent support they managed is, in fact, a much higher figure than their true support. I base this conclusion on the theory that some voters may well have feared a reprise of the rigged 1985 election, to which it was demonstrably dangerous to vote against the Sandinistas.

The question now is, having asked the people what they wanted, will the Sandinistas abide by the answer? This question haunts us from Lithuania to Managua and the answer is still unclear. Marxism-Leninism may be dead, but is tyranny? The brand new powers for which Mr Gorbachev is asking are not derived from Communism, they are parallel to it. I suppose the best analogy is the French Revolution. Gorbachev is not emerging, as Robespierre, Danton and Marat did, from the Revolution. While one cannot yet draw the parallel with any degree of assurance, Mr Gorbachev may be a Napoleon on an entirely new tack. His powers are to be personal, not derived from the Communist Party any more than Napoleon's were derived from the Jacobins or the *saraculites*. We shall see.

Meanwhile, the Americans are being blamed for the problem of dismantling the Contras, which only goes to show how short our memories are. The Americans did not invent the Contras, they merely supported them. Though the Contras may have contained some very nasty Somoza elements, many of them were ex-Sandinistas with no illusions about the tyranny they were fighting. The Americans, after all, supported the Sandinistas economically, before they began a systematic destruction of the country's economy... but, oh, why repeat this all again? Let's all just gloat a minute or two, before blind envy descends and blinkers the world once more.



Till death us do part when Rembrandt painted "The Jewish Wedding" in the 17th century, were the classic themes of marriage any different from today's?

Married to her work

What qualifies a woman to compile a volume of reflections on marriage? Libby Purves finds out

Not every young man is sure that marriage is a good idea. In 1837 the 28-year-old

Charles Darwin grabbed a pencil and scribbled out a list of pros and cons. In favour he found: "Children (if it please God) — constant companion (friend in old age) who will feel interested in one, object to be beloved and played with — better than a dog anyhow — Home, and someone to take care of house — Charms of music and female chit-chat. These things good for one's health. Forced to visit and receive relations but terrible loss of time."

Further tormented, he moved to the advantages of not marrying: "Not forced to visit relatives, and to bend in every trifle — to have the expense and anxiety of children — perhaps quarrelling... less money for books etc."

Women have misgivings too. D.H. Lawrence's *Women in Love* had problems long before Germaine Greer. "Imagine" said Ursula, "any man one knows, imagine him coming home to one every evening, and saying Hello, and giving one a kiss. There was a blank pause. 'Yes' said Gudrun in a narrow voice. 'It's just impossible. The man makes it impossible.'"

Both passages come from the new *Oxford Book of Marriage*, edited with mischievous good humour by Helge Rubinstein. She has been married for 35 years and working as a marriage counsellor for 20, and was repeatedly invited to write "a sort of Dr Spock on marriage. But I couldn't bear it. It would have been presumptuous, and far too simplistic. My husband hates me saying it, but this book is a cop-out from doing that." It represents four years' work, however, gathering po-

etry and prose from Euripides to Betty Friedan and from idylls to Agha Warnings, and it probably holds a lot more enlightenment than any number of wordy treatises on how to stay married.

Helge Rubinstein hopes so. "I was not looking for eccentric marriages, like Harold Nicolson and Vita Sackville-West, and I completely rejected all those rather cynical aphorisms like 'Marry in haste, repent at leisure'. They only contain partial truths."

She has not, however, been able to resist wackier bits like Samuel Butler's "How good of God to let the Carlyles marry each other, and so make only two people miserable instead of four", or Sir James Goldsmith's observation that "when you marry you must not automatically create a vacancy". But on the whole, the book follows classic themes of marriage: decisions, proposals, making love, children, ageing and bereavement, with fiery accounts of adultery, divorce, misery and murder. Helge admits to some difficulty in keeping down the amount of Tolstoy, D.H. Lawrence, Alison Lurie and Erich Fromm — "they said almost everything" — but found room for Urk's proposal from *Cold Comfort Farm*. "Come, my beauty — my handful of dirt. I must carry thee up to Ticklepenney's and show 'ee to the water-voles."

At this point Helge's husband of 35 years, Hilary Rubinstein, appears cautiously around the door, having agreed to a joint interview despite his conviction that it would probably lead to divorce. He is a literary agent of legendary energy and shame-

less diversity, whose stable includes authors as diverse as Edwina Currie and Nadine Gordimer. His marriage stemmed indirectly from an incident when Shirley Williams's dog bit a postman in the 1940s. "My father sent me to the West London police court because he said I might be amused to see Vera Britain's daughter, aged 16, pleading like a young Porcia in defence of her dog." This sparked off a friendship with Shirley, and hence a few years later with her flatmate, a German girl called Helge Kitzinger whose family had fled from Hitler in 1939. They met at Easter and married in August.

Helge was initially scared. "I didn't like the thought of marriage. It is like when you are buying a dress — until the moment you buy it, any dress is possible. Not afterwards. But I wanted to be with Hilary, and I had been brought up very chaste and correct, so there was only one way. I also knew that it had to last, because I was brought up that way, and so was Hilary."

"I have a view," says Hilary, "that one should not make the decision to marry unless it is absolutely irresistible. It was." Helge is continuingly fascinated by the modern young — including one of her own sons — who live together and have babies outside marriage. "I constantly ask them why it would be different to be married. They all say that it just is, but can't explain why."

Helge and Hilary (who was marrying Bernard Williams at

the same time) cooked up a plan to dilute the dose a little.

"We decided to have a huge house together and all the children upstairs and share a nanny. When I broke this to Hilary, he turned green." However, they did it, the two families sharing a vast establishment for 17 years. The Williams marriage did not endure: the Rubinstein's did. To this day, Helge and Hilary have a reputation among their troubled friends for being the best refuge possible in times of divorce. Having lived through the free-love Sixties and Seventies, their views on infidelity — strictly other people's — do diverge a little: talking of extra-marital affairs, Hilary advanced the view that there are marriages which "can cope with it", whereas Helge stoutly maintains that "the relationship always pays a price".

Becoming a marriage counsellor and sex therapist was, for Helge, an enhancement of her own marriage. "But it is a classic make-or-break. Some people become counsellors and then their own marriage fails because they see too clearly what is wrong with it. But being a counsellor can help you learn about yourself, and about how to negotiate." Hilary withdrew from this discussion, with a marked masculine distaste for emotional analysis, and went to find a bottle of wine.

Helge was leafing through her book again. "Marriage is one long conversation, checked by disputes..." She read from Robert Louis Stevenson, squinting in the London evening gloom, and Hilary tossed his own reading-glasses across with accustomed affability.

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ECOSPHERE

News on environmental issues

Rubbish on show

It had to happen: the world's first garbage museum has opened in the American state of New Jersey. With displays created by local artists who had the messy task of rummaging through dustbins for raw materials, the museum's exhibits show how the world's mountain of rubbish is building up, and what we can all do to help. Fourteen thousand local schoolchildren are expected to visit this year.

Battery trees

Varta, Europe's largest battery manufacturer (offering mercury and cadmium-free batteries as well as recyclables), has already given £5,000 to the Rainforest Foundation (RF), to pay for medical supplies urgently needed by the Yanomami Indians. Now, for every special rainforest pack of batteries sold, a further penny will go to help the charity's work in Brazil. From Orday, with the help of Sting, the RF co-founder, a new phone link on 0898 55665 will regularly update callers on the

Whiter whites

A complaint lodged against some environmentally friendly washing powders is that they wash greyer. Now, Ecover has been reformulated to combat the problem: to whiten washes, you add a small amount of Alternative Bleach. Most powders use perborate bleach, which deposits boron in the environment and can damage water plants. Ecover's system uses safe percarbonate bleach, with no environmental side effects. The powder and bleach are available from health food shops and large multiple grocers, starting at £1.95 for 1kg.

Safe beauty

Elemis, the cosmetics company which uses entirely natural ingredients and refrain from animal testings, has added to its range a cleanser, toner, aromatic moisturizer, masque and night and day creams, plus flower waters containing essential oils. All are packaged in glass or plastic containers which do not give off toxic fumes when burned. Prices are from £9.50 to £12.50, available through Harrods and selected branches of Debenhams.

Josephine Fairley



HELP ONE CONQUEST LEAD TO ANOTHER.

In March, Sir Ranulph Fiennes and his team will attempt to conquer one of the last great challenges left to man. Or rather, two of them.

They are aiming to walk unassisted to the North Pole, and in doing so, hope to raise £2 million to help the Multiple Sclerosis Society in its urgent quest for a cure.

80,000 people in this country have the disease which, as you may be aware, devastates the central nervous system and can strike anyone at any time.

At the moment there are no known causes and no known cure. £2 million, however, would create, at a British university, a research department devoted exclusively to Multiple Sclerosis.

Your help therefore is urgently needed. For although these men have pledged their intention to walk unassisted, please make sure they don't.

For further information, post the coupon or call 0898 666600. (Calls charged at 25p per minute, cheap rate, or 38p per minute at all other times.) Or to make a donation, call into any branch of the

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TIMES DIARY

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

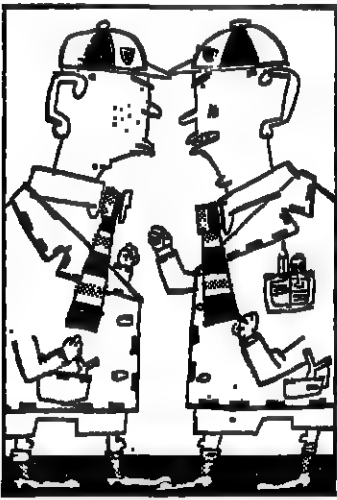
The Conservative Party is going to extraordinary lengths to attract the votes of the 5,000 British residents overseas who are eligible to participate in parliamentary elections but have so far failed to register. An "action checklist" to Tory constituency associations from the Conservatives Abroad Department reminds them of the importance of such voters in marginal seats and suggests some novel ways of getting in touch. For instance, why not request names and addresses from "local removal companies which specialise in shipping goods and furniture for people who go abroad", or "local firms who might be sending representatives abroad". There are other ruses. Party members have been instructed that on no account should they throw away Christmas cards from overseas before extracting all names and addresses for forwarding to Central Office. And why should the Tories think that overseas voters are such fertile ground? They are just about the only major group of electors who are not eligible for the poll tax.

A stuttering start to the Mid Staffordshire by-election campaign. Labour has booked a local school for its candidate, Sylvia Heal, to hold her morning press conference. Good move, you might think, as education cuts are surely a vote-winner for Labour. The problem is that the school was closed five years ago — by the local Labour council. The Lib Dems report that their only setback to date is the one gentleman who refused to sign their anti-poll tax petition. He turned out to be a bailiff looking forward to the extra work.

You don't have to be touched to serve in Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet but it obviously helps. A Cabinet minister recently boarded a London-bound train after a speech in Liverpool, only to find carriage after carriage offering nothing but standing room. Eventually he found an empty compartment labelled "Reserved for Runcom Mental Hospital" and took a seat. Shortly after, a group of patients boarded and seated themselves around him, whereupon the accompanying nurse started to count his charges. After he got to three he spotted the interloper and demanded that he know his identity. The seat-stealer owned up to being John Wakeham, the Secretary of State for Energy. "Four," continued the nurse without pause, "five, six..."

Labour MP Austin Mitchell has asked the Department of Trade and Industry no fewer than 160 questions in the past three months. But just what is the cost to the taxpayer of satisfying Mitchell's insatiable curiosity, asks Tory backbencher Philip Oppenheim in a written parliamentary question. Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State, says it is between £10,000 and £20,000. But Mitchell is unrepentant. "It seems an awful lot of money to say 'get lost', which is all that most of the answers have said," he says. He now wants to know if the figure has been audited — and what the cost would be if the department could be bothered to give him proper answers.

BARRY FANTONI



'Yeah, well I bet my dad pays more poll tax than yours'

Those Tory conciliators who thought that Mrs Thatcher's presence at Ted Heath's fortieth anniversary party last week might herald a healing of their feud are in for a disappointment. I gather that Mrs Thatcher was asked to speak at the lunch but refused, no doubt finding her required presence painful enough without having to offer insincere words of praise to her most persistent critic. Heath is said to be deeply wounded by the refusal and, if such a thing is possible, an increase in the vitriol quotient can be expected.

This must be a first. The Commons committee hearing witnesses on the Cardiff Bay Barrage Bill in South Glamorgan county hall yesterday had evidence worked to it by the folk singer Dave Burns, giving a rendition of his song, "Grangtown Gondolier", opposing the Bill. Parliamentary rules do not allow the submission of records, tapes or videos in evidence, but there is nothing against live performances.

Better men than I will get the plums, of course. That is only fair. That is only cricket. You would not expect a lifetime batting average of 4.7 to pull a major monarchy, particularly given that a number of the more impressive scores were made on sand. I recall 38 at Clacton one year, though admittedly that included a chance to the old lady at second slip when I was still in single figures, and if she hadn't been gobbling a chocolate at the time, history would tell a very different tale.

C.B. Fry's average, you may recall, was standing at 50.22 when they offered him the throne of Albania, including 94 centuries; all, as I understand it, on grass, and most of them while he was concurrently holding not only his place in the England soccer squad but also the world long-jump record. God knows how Zog beat him to throne, probably got so far

First Chris Patten and now Cecil Parkinson have affirmed the change. The Government's national road traffic forecasts are no longer government policy.

Ever since the A55 inquiry at Llandudno in 1975, all discussion of the wisdom of planning on the basis of the national traffic forecasts has been prohibited at public inquiries. At that inquiry, the government insisted that its forecasts were its policy, and that the merits of policy could not be questioned at a public inquiry. It defended this position through the courts to the House of Lords, where it argued that "the traffic forecasts were government policy in themselves, or alternatively that it was Government policy that they should be accepted; and on this account cross-examination should not be allowed."

Since then, the Government (or rather the Department of Transport on behalf of both Labour and Conservative governments) has operated a predict-and-provide policy. It has fed its traffic assignment models with growth factors from the national traffic forecasts, and then applied highway design standards to produce the roads necessary to carry the forecast traffic. Many billions of pounds'

John Adams argues that roads policy has become incoherent

Broken down on the bypass

worth of road building has been justified on this basis.

Now we are told that "it is not possible or desirable to meet forecast levels of demand. They are not a target or option which the department has set itself the objectives of achieving." This raises a question that urgently needs an answer. What level of traffic is desirable? An answer is needed urgently, because a further £12.4 billion of public money is in the process of being spent, on the basis of the old predict-and-provide policy.

Mr Patten, the Environment Secretary, has described the consequences of the Department of Transport's most recent forecasts as "unacceptable". Mr Parkinson, the Transport Secretary, refuses to endorse this view, saying simply that "the and I are working through the figures together". The discrepancy is clear: the Government's new programme might add 2 per cent to the capacity of the nation's road network — to accommodate

a forecast increase in traffic of 142 per cent.

Clearly the forecasts can no longer be described as government policy, and the question of their status is likely to end up back in court. Objectors to the Henlys Corner scheme in north London have recently demanded that their inquiry be reopened, they claim that the policy justification for the scheme no longer exists. Objectors to the Twyford Down scheme are also threatening legal action. Now that the forecasts have been declared unacceptable by the Secretary of State for the Environment, the case for reviewing the schemes looks irresistible.

In planning a road system one is obliged to take a view about the future. Until recently, the official view has been that the Government has a duty to provide road space for all future demands that motorists might make. Environmental groups concluded about 20 years before

the Government that this was neither possible nor desirable. Their pleasure in having the merits of their case belatedly acknowledged is limited, because the justification now being offered for road building is even less credible.

Mr Parkinson tells us that he is making a contribution to environmental protection by building more bypasses to take traffic out of towns and villages. Meanwhile he still bangs on about the freedom to own and use cars. If this freedom is fully exercised, in due course there will be, according to his own department's forecasts, about two-and-a-half times as much traffic on the nation's roads as now. Bypassing the most congested parts of the road network simply relaxes an effective constraint on growth. There are, of course, alternatives to restraint by congestion. Electronic road pricing is currently a favourite proposal. Unfortunately, if overall growth in traffic is not curbed, pricing

traffic out of the areas that are most congested will simply displace traffic to areas which are less so. This is already happening, the most notorious example being the M25.

The further enormous growth that would result from the unconstrained exercise of choice that Mr Parkinson advocates could be accommodated only by American-style dispersal in sprawling suburbs, and by a road building programme that would dwarf the one just announced.

Traffic must be restrained everywhere, not just in cities. The Common Transport Committee report, *The Future of Roads for the Future*, a welcome increased spending on roads, shows that this is a nettle that non-green politicians are reluctant to grasp. Their reluctance stems not from the absence of methods of restraint — increased taxes on cars and petrol would do it — but from the need to confront an awkward fact: that the world does not have the capacity to

provide the level of motorized mobility that people have been encouraged to view as their entitlement. The world neither has the energy to sustain it, the space to accommodate it without damage to natural and built environments, nor the atmospheric sinks to absorb emissions.

The increasing acceptance of this last constraint adds a global dimension to transport planning in developed countries such as Britain. The world's vehicle population is a major contributor to the greenhouse effect. Most cars are in the developed countries; more in Los Angeles alone than in China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia combined. But the faster growth rates — almost four times faster — are found in the Third World.

If the transport or environment ministers of China or India ask why their populations should not aspire to British levels of car ownership and use, what can Mr Parkinson or Mr Patten reply? The only answer likely to be acceptable is that we intend to reduce our dependence on the car. Merely slowing growth is not enough. The author is reader in geography at University College, London.

Conor Cruise O'Brien counsels the pro-sanctions lobby not to play into the hands of South Africa's right

De Klerk and the white cliff

Neil Kinnock was reported this week as having said that those who favour some relaxation of sanctions against South Africa in present circumstances are appeasing the South African Conservatives and neo-Nazis, just as Hitler was appeased in the 1930s.

All analogies, of their nature, are defective in some degree, but this one is inept in the extreme. The head of the South African government is not some neo-Nazi, but the reformer F.W. de Klerk. Those who favour some relaxation of sanctions are not trying to placate the extreme right in South Africa, but to frustrate it, by strengthening the politician whom it most hates and whom it is trying, with considerable hope of success, to destroy.

If a German analogy is needed there is an appropriate one. It concerns the early days of the Weimar Republic. In those days, some warned that the continuing pressure on Germany, through implementation of the punitive clauses of the Versailles Treaty, would discredit the Weimar Republic and play into the hands of the far right, among whom Adolf Hitler was already an agitator. That warning was well-founded. So also are the present warnings about weakening Mr de Klerk and strengthening the sinister forces to the right of him.

Contrary to a suggestion made, rather tentatively, on this page on Tuesday by Gerald Kaufman, I am not trying to help Mr de Klerk to "get away with less". What I want to see in South Africa is what the ANC and the British Labour Party want to see: non-racial elections

on a common roll, and a fully democratic mixed-race government (which would probably be headed by Nelson Mandela, perhaps with Mr de Klerk as his deputy). But I am conscious, as the British Labour Party is not, and the ANC does not appear to be, of the enormous dangers looming before Mr de Klerk when he is seen to be moving in the direction of something that most whites have always regarded as unthinkable.

The Labour Party is wrong to assume that Mr de Klerk's position is secure because in the last elections 70 per cent of the white electorate rejected the South African Conservatives. There are two flaws in that argument. The first is that most of those who voted for Mr de Klerk's National Party did so in the hope that, while making some concessions to the blacks, he would manage to preserve the political predominance of the whites. If and when Mr de Klerk makes the big jump and abandons that, many of his followers will bolt. How many, will depend in part on whether his reforms are seen to benefit South Africa's whites by bringing sanctions to an end. And he needs some help on that one, before he makes the big jump. Afterwards may be too late.

The second flaw in Labour's argument is to assume that Mr de Klerk's parliamentary majority is necessarily what matters. For if he does make the jump, parliament may cease to exist.

Four years ago, at Stellenbosch University, I talked with an Afrikaner political scientist who has close contacts with the South African Defence Force. I

asked him whether there might be circumstances in which the forces might no longer be amenable to civilian control. His answer was: "You are supposing that there is civilian control at the moment."

The South African military has shown itself capable of systematically violating, with complete impunity, an international agreement concluded by the government of P.W. Botha: the Nkomati Accord with Mozambique of March, 1984. So we cannot take for granted military acquiescence in whatever Mr de Klerk may choose to agree with the ANC. He could not have gone as far as he has without the assent of Magnus Malan, the Defence Minister, and his senior colleagues in the forces, but it would be rash to assume that the military is prepared to accept transition of power to black hands.

When they released Nelson Mandela, F.W. de Klerk and his colleagues seem to have hoped that he would agree to a settlement involving less than a transition of power, and that his towering prestige would make that settlement acceptable to blacks. These hopes seem certain to be dashed. It is true that Mr Mandela is in some important respects, more moderate than some other elements in the ANC. But his moderation does not extend to a willingness to accept less than full non-racial democracy in South Africa. The main division between him and the ANC hardliners concerns not relations with whites, but relations with



other blacks. Last Sunday, displaying immense courage, he went to Durban, where he addressed a huge ANC rally and told it of the need for peace with Mr Buthelezi's Inkatha, with which ANC people, encouraged by the leadership in exile, have been carrying on a war costing thousands of lives. Mr Mandela told them to throw away their weapons. He said: "We extend the hand of peace to Inkatha and hope that it may be possible for us to share a platform with Buthelezi." At this point, according to a Reuter report, Mr

Mandela "was forced to stop his speech when sections of the crowd jeered and whistled at his calls for reconciliation".

It is significant that Mr Mandela made that intrepid speech in Durban, before going to Lusaka for his first meeting with the exiled ANC leadership, some of whom are certainly more in sympathy with those who jeered and whistled than with his calls for reconciliation. There has now to be a showdown within the ANC on this important issue. Fortunately, Mr Mandela is well placed to win,

with the backing of the leaders of the front-line states.

What has attracted most attention in the Western media about the Lusaka talks has been Mr Mandela's refusal to suspend the ANC's "war" against the South African state. That issue has very little substance, since the war has always been mostly a pretence. What must really preoccupy the ANC leadership in the closed sessions in Lusaka is the real and bloody war going on in Natal, mainly between Xhosa and Zulu, with the sanction of the exiled ANC leadership.

It is an issue of great significance for the future of a democratic South Africa. Mr Mandela's vision of the future is a magnanimous one, with a place in it for people who have in the past opposed the ANC. As the hardliners look forward to the punishment of "collaborators", Mr Buthelezi and his Zulus become the test-case. And this issue comes close to the Mandelas personally. Winnie Mandela's father, the Pondo chief, Kokane, is a member of the council of perhaps the most prominent of the "collaborators", Kaiser Matanzima of the Transkei. Winnie Mandela, while rejecting her father's politics, has refused to break with him personally. Rejecting such distinctions, the hardliners have done their best to discredit Mrs Mandela. By walking out of prison hand-in-hand with her, Nelson Mandela silently rebuffed that campaign of calumny.

In short, both Mr de Klerk and Mr Mandela are threatened, not only across the racial divide, but by forces within their own communities. Neither man can help the other, much though both may wish to. Nor can we in the West help Mr Mandela; eulogies in our Press may do him more harm than good. But we in the West can help or harm Mr de Klerk. In choosing which to do, we should remember that if he fails, the vision of Nelson Mandela will not come to fruition in his lifetime. That is the vital point which the British Labour Party is missing.

If this is international isolation, how splendid

Robert Kilroy-Silk questions the fashion for casting Britain as pariah

So Britain and its Prime Minister are alone, isolated from the rest of the world, ridiculed, scorned, a pariah, without influence, an irrelevant, marginalised. That, at least, is the view of Her Majesty's Opposition and its acolytes in the Press.

But, as Mrs Thatcher retorted, it looks a pretty cosy isolation from the vantage point of Number 10. It hardly seems accurate to describe Britain or the Prime Minister as an irrelevance when there is a never ending shuffle of world leaders along the Downing Street corridors, queuing to shake hands and be photographed.

In the past couple of weeks alone, the Japanese, Italian and Polish prime ministers, the German foreign and defence ministers, the President-elect of Brazil, the President of Mexico, the Amir of Qatar, Giscard d'Estaing and Jesse Jackson, among others, have paid their respects to the Prime Minister. The President of the United States regularly writes and telephones. It is hardly the picture of a

country and leader that, in the words of one sour critic, have "lost friends and failed to influence people". And how can Britain be so described when it plays a full, active and influential part in more international organizations than probably any other country, including the United States?

Naturally, not everyone always agrees with Britain's posture or Mrs Thatcher's stance. It would be strange if they did. We have our own special interests to pursue. They have theirs. Also, there are policy differences between the British Prime Minister and a vocal section of our political and media establishment, a section that seems to think that Britain's should always behave as others want us to do, not in the way that suits us. Some foreign politicians encourage them.

But it would be arrogantly foolish for anyone to argue that Mrs Thatcher is totally wrong in her attitude towards European

integration, the lifting of sanctions against South Africa, and the reunification of Germany. Indeed, recent events seem to suggest that she has at least as much chance of being proved to have been right as any of her detractors.

That Chancellor Kohl has felt unable to say unequivocally that Germany has no territorial ambitions — to allay the fear of the Poles — justifies the gradual approach adopted by Mrs Thatcher and so scornfully castigated by those who appear to think that we owe a debt of some kind to the Germans.

It is patently absurd for Ted Heath to allow himself to be so carried away by his own rhetoric as to say that we have no business "interfering". One way or another, it will be Britain, with others that will pay at least some of the price for German reunification.

The Prime Minister is clear that her mandate is to speak for

Britain; not for Europe, not for the Germans, and not even for the black South Africans. They have their own spokesmen.

The Rev Frank Chikane is one of the spokesmen for black South Africans, and neither he nor any of the other black leaders would allow anyone from outside their country to tell them what their policy should be. Equally, Mr Chikane cannot assume the right to tell Britain what it should do. He has no right to assert, as he did in London this week, that only the blacks in South Africa have the right to decide whether sanctions should end.

Quite apart from the problem of which blacks should make decisions — the ANC? Tutu? Buthelezi? — Britain's policy towards South Africa is a matter for Britain. If Patrick "Terror" Lekota, can argue that it is not in the interests of the United Democratic Front "to smash the South African economy", then

Mrs Thatcher is equally right to look to Britain's interests. No one else will.

But putting all these differences to one side, how can anyone seriously suggest that Britain is isolated and without influence, given our economic, military and diplomatic commitment to the rest of the world? An irrelevance, when our troops have helped to keep the peace in Europe, and when the Royal Navy patrols the world, often doing other people's dirty work?

No one screamed that we were an irrelevance when sheltering under the broad arms of the Armilla patrol in the Gulf. Not the Germans. Nor the Dutch. Not the Belgians, nor the other assorted nationalities who sought safe passage with the now scorned and ridiculed British.

Nor did anyone shout that the Royal Navy ship assisting the typhoon-torn Caribbean islands was "unwanted" or a "pariah". Not a single survivor from the

Cypriot ferry that was attacked by the Syrians last week refused rescue by the RAF. No thoughts then of isolation, or of our being without influence.

Nor is it just Britain's military protection that is so highly sought after. There is more than one hand outstretched, ready to take economic aid from this ridiculed country. Not many nations in Africa or Asia have rejected it. Most plead for more, all the time.

Eastern Europe has joined the queue, and has not gone without. Poor "marginalised" Britain has already handed out £50 million to Poland, with more on the way, and £25 million to Hungary. More is promised to other Eastern European countries once they have shown they are firmly committed to reform.

Neither Britain nor its Prime Minister is isolated or without influence. But Mrs Thatcher tends to say what she thinks, speaks unpalatable truths, while others prefer the safety of hiding behind her skirts and the comfort of well-worn hypocrisy.

Crowning a career at the crease



ALAN
COREN

The real point of this captivating goblet, and the relevant one this morning, is that the Albanians had put Fry's name in the frame for two coincidental reasons: (1) the status of English

cricket had never been higher, and (2) the stability of Eastern Europe had never been lower.

If you are not currently absorbed in a choice, there is a drift here which you may have caught. For did that same coincidence not just pop up again and gently loop its way towards second slip? Does there not seem to you to be an answer to the fiaspous hysteria currently wracking the freight territory between the Baltic and the Caspian, and might that answer not lie half a world away, at Sabina Park?

It might, and some of it might well lie slightly nearer, though, as I adumbrated earlier, the plums will go to better men. For, while

this week's resounding endorsement of Mr Gorbachev's reconstituted presidency may mean a slight delay in the establishment of the Gooch Dynasty under Tsar Graham I, I have every confidence that the day cannot be far off when the Warsaw heralds will be bugling the accession of King Lamby, when Archduke Gladstone will be waving to the delicious mobs in Wenceslas Square, and when Crown Prince Wayne and his radiant consort will be riding in state through the cheering streets of Bucharest.

As to the, as it were, minor counties, I cannot guess whom the Kingmakers of Estonia or Latvia or Lithuania are currently

shortlisting, but I doubt that I am alone in trusting that the spinners will not be left out. Though not, perhaps, a household word where major Balkanologists foregather, I beg leave to suggest that Armenia would benefit hugely from the wisdom, experience, and general dependability which would accompany the founding of the House of Hemminges.

As for me, well, 4.7 and medium-pace daisy-cutters allow one few illusions. I shall have to wait: the new monarchies, once established, will want to re-create the aristocratic infrastructures of yesterday, and, having popped Fry back on the shelf and taken down Burke's *Royal Families of Europe*, I have little doubt that a cap can be found to fit.

Margrave of Pomerania has a ring to it. If I can remember not to flash at rising balls outside the off-stump, I could be well in, there.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TOUGHING IT OUT

The next month will be the most painful period for the Government in the unhappy history of the poll tax, and consequently the most dangerous. This is the time when local authorities all over England and Wales will be announcing their budgets and the initial rate at which they will set the poll tax. Nobody with any experience of local government finance should be the least surprised that in practically every case the tax is turning out higher than expected.

Not unnaturally the prospect is deeply worrying to Conservative MPs. Many see the poll tax as the rock on which the Government is most likely to founder at the next election. The decision of 18 Conservative councillors in West Oxfordshire to resign the whip in protest at the poll tax they were being obliged to impose, underlines the deep divisions within the party and the unpopularity of the tax in local government circles generally.

But while the political perils are uppermost in Tory minds at present there are also economic perils which could carry their own retribution. The temptation to pour more money into softening the worst effects of the tax will be strong. The Government has already put in place benefits and safety nets which will much increase the cost of the measure without, it seems, doing much to ease the political pain. If ministers succumb to the temptation to throw good money after bad they may surrender all hope of cutting income tax further before the next election. In limiting the negative effects of one measure they will have given away the chance of positive measures to win votes in 1991.

In these circumstances all kinds of radical notions for escaping Houdini-like from the political box of the poll tax are being bandied around. Probably the most popular — though its popularity seems likely to be temporary — is to remove responsibility for education from local authorities and hand it over to central

government. Given the increasing central control over the curriculum, central bargaining over teachers' salaries and a large measure of central funding there is certainly a case for central administration.

It is not, however, a strong case. Though some additional coherence might be gained, much would be lost in the way of parental influence over the quality of schooling. More to the point, it would make the Government's political problems with the poll tax worse rather than better.

By extending local government reform over a further period of years — for centralizing education could hardly be done overnight — it would extend the political turmoil. Worst of all extra taxation would have to be raised by central government to fund the service while local authorities would reap the benefit of being able to reduce the poll tax. The option of simply transferring government grants back to central government does not exist because the grant is an integral part of the mechanism for equalizing needs and resources between different authorities.

The political illness from which the Government is suffering is an old complaint. Whenever the system of local government has been reformed in the past the cost of it has mysteriously risen and the government of the day has been blamed. It happened in the early 1970s when the present administrative units were set up and it is happening again today with the introduction of the poll tax.

But by the same token the period of political pain will be temporary. If the poll tax is anything it is a means of increasing local accountability and making councils responsible for the spending they administer and the taxes they levy. Once the transition to the new system is complete the focus will swing back on to the authorities. At this stage in the proceedings the Government must grit its teeth and look to the future.

SECOND-HAND HOUSE SALESMEN

"I'm called away by particular business", says a character in *The School for Scandal*, "but I leave my character behind me". If half the allegations made about house agents in England and Wales in this week's *Which?* report are true, then the profession does not have enough reputation to put down as a deposit.

The President of the National Association of Estate Agents said yesterday that the breaches of the rules identified by the magazine were "not as grave as they might have been". The evidence adduced by the Consumers Association is not merely that a code of professional conduct has been breached, however, but that the law has been broken.

Under the law of agency, for instance, an estate agent is obliged always to act in the best interests of the vendor, which extends to telling the truth about any offers that have been received. Agents can, however, earn substantial commissions on the sale of insurance, and *Which?* cites the case of an agent in outer London who lied to a seller so that an offer financed by an insurance-linked mortgage was accepted in preference to a higher cash bid.

Estate agents are also required by law to get the best deal they can for each of their clients, regardless of how many properties they currently have on their books. With the market in its present depressed state, however, there is an obvious temptation to see to it that a house does not attract more than one offer. *Which?* established that many agents have been discouraging second offers and trying to divert the interest of buyers to other properties.

Again, under the Financial Services Act, advisers may recommend the purchase of life insurance only if they consider that it suits the client's needs. There is an obligation to offer "best advice", irrespective of the amount of commission involved. In the last five years, the financial institutions have bought up almost

one in three of the country's estate agency branches in a drive to sell more of their services. The CA found evidence that the tempting commissions available were leading some agents to offer bad advice — which the law forbids.

There will be some wrinkling of noses at the investigative methods employed by *Which?* in compiling its report — they not only enlisted the help of genuine sellers, but also recruited actors to pose as buyers — but they have established that there is cause for concern, particularly as the control of the 10 largest chains seems likely to grow. The Law Society made allegations of abuse some time ago, and estate agency practices are currently under review by the Office of Fair Trading.

The OFT should certainly recommend that estate agents be brought within the scope of the Trades Description Act and thus become liable to prosecution if they make bogus claims. The law should also exclude what are known as tie-in sales, where it is possible to buy a particular property only if a mortgage is obtained through the estate agent.

Membership of the estate agents' professional association is at present voluntary. That is plainly absurd. It already boasts a code of conduct. That clearly needs to be revised. The association is already in consultation with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers, and these long-established professional bodies are well-equipped to offer valuable advice.

The President of the National Association of Estate Agents said rather plaintively yesterday that he did not like the Consumers Association's "reluctance to say anything positive about this industry". The remedy lies with his members. If they start to set their house in order now, there will be that much less about which to legislate.

PACIFIC DISCORD

President Bush's pressing invitation to the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Toshiki Kaifu, to meet him in California was not delivered out of courtesy to the newly-elected leader of the world's second-largest economic power. It was an acknowledgement that US-Japanese relations have deteriorated to the point where political intervention is essential.

Opinion polls on both sides of the Pacific reveal rising American hostility to the Japanese and Japanese contempt for Americans. American paranoia has been increased by Japanese purchases of such landmarks as the Rockefeller Centre, and the growing awareness that the US budget deficit is largely funded by Japanese purchases of Treasury bonds. As the mid-term congressional election campaigns get under way, the Democrats are expected to make political hay of anti-Japanese prejudice; and protectionism on Capitol Hill is a well-banked fire.

For Mr. Kaifu, the timing is hardly convenient. His hold on power must still be judged tenuous. Yet he will be under tremendous pressure this weekend to make far-reaching concessions, and stands to lose either way. If there is no breakthrough, he could be made the scapegoat at home as well as in the US for an escalating trade war, but he can hardly promise, as the US wants, to boost consumer spending precisely at the moment when the Bank of Japan is determined to rein in the growth of the money supply.

Mr. Bush's telephone call came at the end of a week of singularly acerbic exchanges between diplomats and officials. The latest round of the Structural Impediment Initiative, bilateral talks principally aimed at reducing the \$49 billion trade imbalance, had just ended in disagreement, with American officials complaining about the lack of "political guidance" and Japanese commentators castigating Washington for its "unreasonable expectations".

The US Defence Secretary, Mr. Dick Cheney, whose announcement in Tokyo of cuts in the numbers of US troops stationed in Japan had

taken the Japanese Government by surprise, had compounded matters by publicly linking the future of the strategic alliance to progress on the trade front. Mr. Kaifu will be looking to Mr. Bush for a strong affirmation that the trade dispute will not be allowed to diminish America's commitment to Japanese security.

Mr. Kaifu's room for manoeuvre on other fronts has been restricted by rash campaign promises — to farmers anxious to maintain barriers against rice imports, and to small shopkeepers opposed to the abolition of the Large Scale Retail Stores Law restricting the spread of super-markets: a key objective for Washington, which claims that the system discriminates against imports. More broadly, the big Japanese corporations which financed the LDP victory are unenthusiased by Washington's declared objective of tilting the emphasis of Japan's economic policy from production to consumption.

They are tiring of American lectures on opening their markets, and have begun to stress that America's low savings rates and the inability of its companies to compete are the real sources of the trade imbalance. Such senior figures as Mr. Akio Morita, chairman of Sony, are objecting to US "interference in domestic affairs".

It will not be easy to find a formula for peace — or at least a truce which will head off congressional retaliation this spring under the 1983 Trade Act against Japan's "unfair" trading practices. One avenue might be to place less emphasis on bilateral trade talks, which have raised temperatures without producing results, and more on the multilateral Uruguay Round of trade liberalization.

America's need for Japanese investment (and imports) is paralleled by Japan's still-considerable dependence on US markets. The United States could, with profit, lower the tariffs, Japan should acknowledge that it should not need external pressures to correct the distortions in its economy.

Facts and figures on student loans

From Professor Emeritus J. K. Mason
Sir, Mr. Forrester's letter (February 28) raises a problem which many have found difficult. The principle of *mater est*, fictional though it may be in some instances, is to be approved in the ordinary case of ovum or embryo donation where the resultant infant is born to a childless woman who wishes to be the social and legal mother of the child she has carried.

The Government's proposals to remove students' rights to claim means-tested social security benefits will cause great hardships for students in the capital. Research shows that in 1988-89 the average student in London received nearly £300 in benefits, and the average amount received by those who claimed some sort of benefit was £500. As the benefit system is means-tested it is the latter figure which is of most significance, especially when it is compared to the £460 loan which will be made available to students in London in place of their benefit rights.

Mr. MacGregor cannot contest these figures as they come from the "Student Income and Expenditure Report 1988-89", which is published by his own department. One can only guess why the Government is proceeding with this scheme, which runs contrary to its own philosophy of "targeting" and which will clearly impoverish students who choose to study in our capital city.

Yours sincerely,
HILARY BENN (Chairman, Education Committee),
Association of London Authorities,
36 Old Queen Street, SW1,
February 28.

From Mrs Kathryn Bennett
Sir, Whilst your leader seems sympathetic to the problems facing students in further education your subtle snipe at public money "keeping them in books and beer" must be challenged.

My son is currently studying electronics at Brunel University and with text books costing around £20 each and his high living expenses, public money does not keep him — or most other students around the country — in books and beer.

Is it your intention that students are not entitled to enjoy themselves at all while they study?

Yours faithfully,
KATHRYN BENNETT,
Stoneham, Main Street,
Gawcott,
Buckinghamshire,
February 28.

From Lord Boyd-Carpenter
Sir, Your front-page column today, headed "Lords revolt fails on student loans", seems, despite its kindly personal references, to be based on a misunderstanding of House of Lords procedure.

It is the established convention that the House of Lords does not vote against the second reading of a Bill which has passed the Commons. This convention was followed yesterday. The vote which took place was on an amendment to the motion for second reading moved by Earl Russell and critical of the form and drafting of the Bill.

Even if accepted it would have been a mere expression of opinion on these matters and would not have affected in the slightest degree the progress or substance of the Bill. As I said in my speech, it was no more than a "distraction" from the serious issues raised by the Bill.

The time to consider and, if necessary, vote on these is during the next three stages of the Bill. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
BOYD-CARPENTER,
HOUSE OF LORDS,
February 28.

Preliminary heat

From Mr H. M. Stewart
Sir, I was amused by Mr Gaskell's comments (February 24) on the selection of Mr Kevin Saunders as prospective candidate for Falmouth-Camborne.

Mr Saunders should take heart that in this country (as opposed to the US) he will be standing against Mr Sebastian Coe, not running against him — which must surely shorten the odds somewhat. I have the honour to be, Sir, your humble and obedient servant,
H. M. STEWART,
Maresfield, Beech Way,
Gerrards Cross,
Buckinghamshire,
February 26.

Doctors' claims

From the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health
Sir, Your report (March 1) "Doctors say hospital cuts will leave suicidal patients at risk on streets", is an excellent example of how a small group of junior doctors can turn alarmist and unsupported claims into an eye-catching and frightening probability. The fact is that the Bethlem Royal and Maudsley Hospital Special Health Authority, which is responsible for the Maudsley Hospital, has taken no decision about

Duel role

From Mr Graham E. Fulkes
Sir, Your correspondent, Dr J. A. D. Ewart, in his letter published on February 20, expounds a pretty theory on the reason for a gentleman's hat bow to be worn on the left.

Apparently it has to do with the dashing days of swordfighting and the wearing of plumes.

What happens, I ask, if the swordsmen is left-handed? I am, Sir, your faithful servant,
GRAHAM E. FULKES,
36 Welton Road,
Folkestone, Kent.

Legal status of genetic mothers

From Professor Emeritus J. K. Mason
Sir, Mr. Forrester's letter (February 28) raises a problem which many have found difficult. The principle of *mater est*, fictional though it may be in some instances, is to be approved in the ordinary case of ovum or embryo donation where the resultant infant is born to a childless woman who wishes to be the social and legal mother of the child she has carried.

It is also appropriate in the surrogacy situation as it is commonly understood — not only is the surrogate the genetic mother, but also the principal establishes her right to retain her child in the event of conflict with the genetic father.

Where it falls down is in the exceptional case of what I have, for this reason, isolated as "womb-leasing" — the course adopted by Mr. Forrester's clients. In these circumstances, to recognise the carrying woman as the child's mother is not only to erect a fiction, but, also, to impose a dowrying untruth.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, as it stands, confers motherhood on any woman who has carried a child (s.26); by contrast, it applies the irrefutable presumption of *pater*

German anthem

From Mr Michael Weigall
Sir, There is no need for a new anthem as Mr Barnes suggests (February 28) for a unified Germany. The old German anthem, the *Deutschlandlied*, already has the necessary ingredients to reflect whatever direction a new Germany chose to follow.

The anthem, written by Hoffmann von Fallersleben on the island of Heligoland almost 150 years ago, has three verses, of which the best known, *Deutschland, Deutschland über alles*, has been discouraged in West Germany since the Federal Republic reintroduced the old tune in 1952.

The West German anthem sung on public occasions is the third verse, whose references to "unity, justice and freedom for the German Fatherland" no East or West German would presumably complain about singing.

But if the new Germany really wants to reassure neighbours of its future inclination to peaceful pursuits, it could do worse than choose the least known verse of

Presidential systems

From Mr Anthony Wigram
Sir, Your leading article (February 27), "The Soviet Leviathan", surprisingly failed to mention the United States of America when discussing examples of presidential systems suitable for use in the USSR, since this is the only example of such a system which has survived intact over a long period.

The success of the American system in melding together 50 separate states, each with a large measure of independence, but widely differing incomes, populations and interests, has been based on a directly-elected president determined to hold the union together by force if necessary and a fine balance between the president, the Senate and the House of Representatives and the Supreme Court.

'The Three Graces'

From Sir Hugh Leggat
Sir, Mr Jacob Rothschild's imaginative offer (report, February 24) to acquire "The Three Graces" for the nation through the acceptance of in-lieu procedures will I hope eventually be welcomed by the Government. In endeavouring to retain our national patrimony of supreme works of art it is vital that the State should receive value for money whilst at the same time equity for the owner is crucial.

From my experience I am convinced that there is no fairer or more efficient way for the nation to acquire masterpieces than to implement the in-lieu scheme wherever possible. Indeed, bearing in mind the ever-increasing loss overseas of art treasures, the scheme should be widened and Mr Rothschild, in making the fullest use of the in-lieu provision with his ingenious offer, should be warmly applauded.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH LEGGAT,
17 Duke Street, SW1.

The way it will provide services to patients next year.

While it is surely sensible for the hospital to look to make more efficient use of its clinical resources, none of the proposals the health authority is to consider could lead to the situation claimed by the doctors of suicidal patients and abused children being left without help and care. Yours faithfully,
ROGER FREEMAN,
Department of Health,
Richmond House,
79 Whitehall, SW1,
March 1.

'The Satanic Verses'

From the Reverend Alan Cooke
Sir, Whether or not the Muslims' God is offended by Salman Rushdie's book is perhaps not for a Christian to judge. What is surely clear, however, is that no God who submits willingly and in love to the indignity of crucifixion (and that on a charge of blasphemy) needs any protection by the law.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN COOKE,
The Vicarage, Milne Street,
Chadderton,
Oldham, Lancashire.

Budget risk for intensive care

From Sir Roy Calne and others
Sir, All taxpayers will applaud the Government's efforts to avoid wastage in the NHS, but it is doubtful if they would also support a policy of budget restriction in the health service that would deny them highly specialized care, should they be in mortal danger, suffering from a condition that could be cured.

Unfortunately, that is what has now happened. New methods of treating fatal conditions cannot be offered to all patients in need due to grossly inadequate intensive care facilities. These are relatively expensive and therefore a prime target for hospital administrators to cut when they are desperately trying, and usually failing, to keep within their allotted budgets. The reasons for failure to provide sufficient staffed ICU (intensive care unit) beds are:

1. Too few training courses for ICU nurses.
2. Too low grading of ICU staff. The grading system does not give priority to patient care, instead it favours administrative skills.
3. Rapid turnover of nurses due to the intense emotional and physical stress of the job.

The first two defects could easily be put right; all they need is more revenue; the last requires change in the arrangements of high dependency nursing. Recovery and coronary care work are relatively devoid of stress for the staff. General paediatric and neurological intensive care are the most demanding. If nurses rotated between these different areas, with a nucleus staff of specialists maintaining continuity, then high dependency nursing would be more attractive as a career. Such a simple and obvious solution would be resisted by some doctors and nurses, who would feel their personal authority in their own special units would be undermined by being part of a larger high dependency service. If, however, we continue as we are, the new life-saving treatments will be withheld from patients who could be cured.

To be ill is a frightening and often painful experience — to be allowed to get worse when treatment could be given is surely unacceptable to a caring society. Yours faithfully,
R. Y. CALNE
(Consultant surgeon),
M. J. LINDOP, G. R. PARK
(Consultant anaesthetist),
University of Cambridge
Clinical School,
Department of Surgery,
Level 9, Addenbrooke's Hospital,
Hills Road, Cambridge,
February 28.

From Mr G. T. C. Musgrave
Sir, I read with interest the letter from Mr Barnes in your edition today putting forward as a national anthem for a newly to be reunited Germany the tune "Ich habe mich ergeben".

I believe it was not infrequently used (and for all I know still is) as a marching song by German troops. So it is probably quite well known in Europe outside Germany, at least by older people. Yours sincerely,
GAVIN MUSGRAVE,
43 Pall Mall, SW1,
February 28.

Mr Gorbachov would be wise to study the American system with the greatest care and to shun new fangled proposals cobbled together to meet a current emergency but without the checks and balances that would ensure the survival of democracy. Mr Gorbachov and indeed the leaders of other emerging democracies of Eastern Europe need good advice in choosing their new Constitutions. They must be made aware of the wide divergence between the results of different electoral systems and the dangers and advantages of each.

These are well charted waters but do they have a pilot? You, Sir, should attempt this role. Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY WIGRAM,
Berkeley House,
15 Hay Hill, W1,
February 27.

From Mrs Kathleen Bramley
Sir, When I am 80 in mid-April the DSS tell me that I am to qualify for an extra age allowance on my State pension. It will be 25 pence per week.

I wonder what this little extra was worth in real terms when it was started. Has it ever been adjusted? Or is it another benefit intended to disappear quietly in the anonymity of computer and word processor?

I could save it up for a month to replace the furlie on my walking stick or, perhaps, an extra little nip. I have borrowed the first instalment to write to you. Yours sincerely,
KATHLEEN BRAMLEY,
Cornerstones, Hampton Grove,
Dumley, Stourbridge,
Worcestershire,
February 26.

From Miss Patricia Allderidge
Sir, Queen Victoria's first pipe, Angus MacKay, played the pipes in Bethlem Hospital during an attack of insanity in 1854. (He also commemorated his stay by composing a march called "Agmen Bethlemicum"). The effect on the recovery rate of his fellow patients has not yet been assessed. Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA ALLDERIDGE
(Archivist and Curator),
The Bethlem Royal Hospital,
Monks Orchard Road,
Beckenham, Kent,
February 28.

From Dr W. S. Parker
Sir, All this world-wide wallowing in ecstasy at the sound of bagpipes would have been cut down to size if your original Swiss correspondent (February 9) had been told by her Dutch girl pipe that, in her language, the wretched contraption is called a *doedelzak*. Yours faithfully,
W. S. PARKER,
68 Ladies Mile Road,
Patcham,
Brighton,
East Sussex,
February 27.

From Mrs Mary McCall Rink
Sir, At the age of 14, there not being a suitable male in our very Scottish family, I was sent to a dear old pipe-major to learn the skill of piping. Progressing from the chanter and "The Barren Rocks of Aden" (the P-M had served in India and Aden) I was introduced to his set of pipes, and the blow-and-squeeze bit.

He had a secret recipe for the softening and viability of the bag, the main ingredient being whisky, which was not my favourite flavour, for if one squeezed at the wrong time, the whisky, new and old, would gurgel back up the mouthpiece.

While staying with a dentist uncle in Blackpool, I was sent to practise on the sands in order not to disturb his patients. I chose a deserted spot but was approached by a small boy, holding out a penny. I rebelled and was allowed to take up Scottish country dancing instead.

At 75 I can still "do" an eightsome and "The Dashing White Sergeant". A lifelong distaste for whisky remains. Yours faithfully,
MARY MCCALL RINK,
Apt. One, The Street,
Upper Rivington, Heath Charnock,
Chorley, Lancashire.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01782 5046).



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 1: The Queen, Colonel-in-Chief, and the Duke of Edinburgh visited the Welsh Guards at Elizabeth Barracks, Whitehall today and were received by Brigadier J F Rickett (Regimental Lieutenant-Colonel).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highnesses were received on the Parade Ground with a Royal Salute. The Colonel-in-Chief presented letters to the Officers and Warrant Officers and a representative of the Welsh Guards Association on the occasion of St David's Day.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh subsequently met members of the Welsh Guards Old Comrades Association and attended a reception in the Sergeant Mess.

Afterwards Her Majesty, with His Royal Highness, honoured the Commanding Officer (Lieutenant-Colonel D P Belcher) with her presence at lunch in the Officers Mess.

The Countess of Arlisle, Sir Robert Fellowes and Lieutenant-Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson were in attendance.

The Prince Edward this evening attended a dinner at Guildhall in aid of the Sports Aid Foundation Charitable Trust.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance. This evening The Princess Royal attended Harry Blech's 80th Birthday Gala Concert in aid of the Sports Aid Foundation Charitable Trust.

Her Royal Highness was attended by The Hon Mrs Lousdais.

CLARENCE HOUSE
March 1: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was present this evening at a Soirée d'Or at the Royal College of Music.

Ruth, Lady Fernoy and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 1: The Prince and Princess of Wales visited Cwyd to meet evacuees, members of the emergency services and voluntary workers involved in the flood disaster at Towyn.

Their Royal Highnesses were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Cwyd (Sir William Gladstone, Bt).

Commander Richard Aylard, RN and Mr Philip Mackie were in attendance.

This evening The Princess of Wales, Patron, Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, attended an "Opera Evening" in aid of the charity and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, at the Duke of York's Barracks, King's Road, London SW3.

Mrs James Lonsdale and Lieutenant-Commander Patrick Leighton, RN were in attendance.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester this evening attended the St David's Day Welsh Dinner at the Savoy Hotel, Strand, London WC2.

Mrs Howard Page was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE, RICHMOND PARK
March 1: Princess Alexandra, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, The Light Infantry, this afternoon received Major General J D G Pank on retiring as Colonel of the Regiment and Brigadier A Makepeace-Warne upon assuming this appointment.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, will attend a ceremony at King's Theatre, Glasgow, at 10.30 when the Mayor of Paris will hand over the title of "European City of Culture" to the Lord Provost of Glasgow, and will open the McEwan Galleries at 11.30.

The Princess of Wales will visit the Metropolitan Police Driving School, Peel Centre, Aerodrome Road, NW9, at 10.15.

Prince Edward, as Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, will attend a reception and presentation at The Low Wood Hotel, Windermere, at 6.20.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the University of 1915, will visit the World Student Games at "Topping Out Ceremony", Ponds Forge, Sheffield, at 10.15. She will open the Age Concern Centre, Division Street, Sheffield, at 1.55; will visit the YMCA, Broomfield Road at 2.24; and, as President of the Save the Children Fund, will visit the fund's shop, Crookes Road, Broomfield, at 3.05.

Marriages
Mr R.E. Peate and Miss C.A. Fletcher-Wood. The marriage took place at Walnut Court House, New South Wales, of Caroline Fletcher-Wood to Russell Robert Peate, on February 21. Future address PO Box 207, Lightning Ridge, NSW 2834, Australia.

Mr A.C. Stirling and Mrs G.A. Waddell. The marriage took place on Saturday February 24, at New Kilpatrick Church, Bearsden, of Mr Christopher Stirling, son of Mr and Mrs David Stirling, of Stone Street, Kent, to Miss Gillian Waddell, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Waddell, of Bearsden, Glasgow.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Alexandra Waddell, Amelia Lamb, James Dudgeon and Sebastian Fialkow. Mr Richard Brink was best man.

Lecture
Community Service Volunteers. Dr Alec Dickson, Founder of Community Service Volunteers and Voluntary Service Overseas, delivered the first Edinburgh Lecture last night at the House of Commons by invitation of Mr David Blunkett, MP, and Mr Chris Smith, MP.

Dinners
Old Mancunians Association. The annual dinner of the Old Mancunians Association was held last night at the Arts Club. Mr J.M. Sennett presided. Sir Walter Bodmer and Mr Geoffrey Barker, High Master of Manchester Grammar School, were the principal guests.

Service dinners
5th (V) Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets. Sir David Plastow was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the 5th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, held last night at Rhodes House, Oxford. Lieutenant-General Sir Peter Huxford, Honorary Colonel of the battalion, presided.

TA Lowlands of Scotland. The Duke of Edinburgh, Honorary Colonel of the Edinburgh and Heriot-Watt Universities Officers Training Corps, attended a dinner given by the Lowlands of Scotland Territorial Army in the Lowlands of Scotland last night at 51 Yorkhill Parade, Glasgow. Colonel Douglas Spratt, Honorary Colonel of the 71 (Scottish) Engineer Regiment (V) presided. Among those present were: Lieutenant-General Sir John Maclean, General Officer Commanding, Scottish Army, and Mr John Maclean, Chairman of the Lowlands of Scotland Territorial Army.

Dinners
The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were the guests of honour at the St David's Day Welsh Dinner at the Savoy Hotel. Mrs Anita Griffiths, president, was in the chair. Miss Sila Phillips, Mr John Morris, QC, MP, and Mr Cliff Morgan, QC, MP, were also present. Judge David Griffiths was among the guests.

Royal Cruising Club
Mr Michael Vernon, chairman of the RNLI, accompanied by Mrs Vernon, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Royal Cruising Club held last night at the N.W. Eaton, Commodore, received the guests who included the Commodore of the Clyde Cruising Club and Mrs Sharp.

FABIA DRAKE

From stage ingénue to grande dame of the screen

Fabia Drake, OBE, an actress of formidable presence whose career enjoyed an unexpected late flowering on television and in the cinema, has died at the age of 86.

In her younger days a leading Shakespearean player, she became known to a more recent generation for her gallery of imperious old ladies, such as Lady Middleton in the BBC series *The Pallisers*, based on the novels of Trollope. Her Indian summer continued, literally, with her Mabel in *The Jewel in the Crown*, where she held her own against another veteran, and a life-long friend, Peggy Ashcroft.

On television, too, she was a reliable Aunt Agatha in P. G. Wodehouse's *The World of Wooster*, while in the cinema she played Miss Catherine Allen in the Merchant-Ivory production of E. M. Forster's *A Room With a View*.

A woman of vitality and wit, as imposing in real life as she was on the stage and screen, she first made her reputation as a Shakespearean heroine during the seasons at Stratford-upon-Avon between 1930 and 1933.

In need of a leading lady to strengthen his cast during the period leading up to the opening of the new Memorial Theatre, the director W. Bridges-Adams decided to take what he described as "his biggest gamble" on Fabia Drake. Though she had proved herself a West End actress of promise, her only appearance in professional Shakespeare had been as Viola for a single night with the Fellowship of Players.

She was now asked to learn Lady Macbeth, Beatrice, Gertrude, Mistress Page, Viola and Hippolyta in just three weeks, and to tour North America with the Stratford company. This she did, though her voice was seriously taxed, and she returned for another American visit in 1931.

She took part in the opening production of the Memorial Theatre on Shakespeare's birthday in April 1932 and though her part was a tiny one, Lady Percy in *Henry IV Part One*, she was one of the few performers to master the auditorium's tricky acoustics.

With most of the cast at a loss, and the production proceeding awkwardly, the way she moved out upon the apron stage to touch her audience to excitement became an imperishable memory for all those fortunate enough to be there.

That season she was a glowing Fortia in the Komisarjevsky production of *The Merchant of Venice*, and the next year she was back as Lady Macbeth in the same director's "aluminium" revival, so-called because of the scenic design.

During the autumn of 1933 she acted *Rosaling* in London during a short Phoenix Theatre revival of *As You Like It* but, remarkably, she never appeared professionally in Shakespeare again.

Her theatrical achievements came in spite of an endemic and paralyzing stage fright, which was eventually traced back to guilt over an incident in childhood during which she made herself sick to avoid going to Sunday school.

She was born Ethel McGinichy, in Herne Bay, Kent, on January 20, 1904, the daughter of a failed Irish actor and a Scottish mother. A child of phenomenal ability, she began studying for the stage at the then Academy of Dramatic Arts at the age of nine and even played Richard III.

Her first professional engagement was in 1914 and two years later, still only 11, she played Robin, Falstaff's page, in scenes from *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at Brighton with Ellen Terry.

At 13, helping out the choirboys of All Saints, Margaret Street, in the "kitchen" scene of *Twelfth Night* she found herself as Toby Belch with the 10-year-old Laurence Olivier as Maria. In 1916 she shared a play with Noël Coward.

Later, after education in France, she understudied and occasionally acted Yasmin in Flecker's *Hassan* for Basil Dean and went on to tackle various ingenues in minor West End plays. One



of these, *The Scarlet Lady* (1926) by John Hastings Turner, introduced her to one of her idols, Marie Tempest.

After her Stratford period, her career went into lower gear though she managed a character of some subtlety, Miss Villiam, in Richard Price's *Frolic Wind* and in 1935 had a long run at the Whitehall as Lady Cynthia in St John Ervine's *Anthony and Anna*.

In 1938 she married a barrister, Maxwell Turner (brother of the playwright John Hastings Turner) and virtually retired.

But during the Second World War she returned to RADA to teach and in 1946 she directed Robert Donat's revival of *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Her husband, who became an Old Bailey judge, died in 1960 at the early age of 53. They had a daughter, Deirdre. She subsequently had a very close friendship, lasting 10 years, with the archaeologist Sir Mortimer Wheeler.

Her autobiography, *Blind Fortune*, with a foreword by Lord Olivier, was warmly received when it was published in 1978.

PETER KNEEBONE

Peter Kneebone, who has died in Paris at the age of 66, was a designer and illustrator who left an indelible mark on international graphic design.

His style was a reflection of his own personality - witty, perceptive, economical and always memorable. He retained this style throughout his life and always stood aside from any current graphic fads and people his drawings with a unique Kneebone family.

Born on April 28, 1923, Kneebone's background was unusual for a graphic designer. He read politics and philosophy at Oxford and served in the Royal Navy, where he was liaison officer to the Italian Navy.

After broadcasting for Forces Radio and the Egyptian State Broadcasting Service in Cairo, he designed sets for the theatre and started illustrating in the style for which he will be best remembered.

In 1949, as Gerald Barry's special assistant at the Festival of Britain, he co-ordinated what was probably the most significant galaxy of British design talent in this century.

He always brought the same talents to bear on a variety of design problems, reducing

it to simplicity and then communicating it with wit.

Not content with commercial success, Kneebone continued his writing as well as his committee work for the Chartered Society of Designers and the International Council of Graphic Design Associations. He was ICGDA's President in 1979.

His first marriage to Catherine Shanks ended in divorce and he later married Francoise Jollant, now director of Louis Vuitton. He is survived by her and the four children of his first marriage.

After the Festival, he became a BBC television producer and started making his collection of 19th and 20th century popular art.

Kneebone's illustrated books, which included *Sexes and Seventies* and *Look Before You Leap* in 1952, launched him on his main career in graphic design.

By 1953 he had established an illustration practice that covered all aspects of graphic design for major corporations.

He always brought the same talents to bear on a variety of design problems, reducing

Life and death battles of a new worm

New species of animal are discovered every day, and a report of a new kind of worm in the *Journal of Zoology* (vol 220, pp 249-256) highlights the life-and-death struggles that happen without most people even noticing. It also illustrates that, even now, researchers have not come to grips with the complexities of the Earth's fast-disappearing natural diversity.

The new worm, described by H D Jones of the University of Manchester and colleagues, was found in Kenya, where it haunts the air-shafts of termite nests, poisoning (if worms can pounce) on unsuspecting termites. It is not an animal of the segmented earthworm variety, but a flatworm, one of the large group of animals that includes parasitic tapeworms and flukes.

The worms are very flat, and about a centimetre long (although they are very stretchy and can extend to two or three times this length). Charcoal-grey on top and pearly white underneath, they find their way with two eyes at the front (flatworms have among the most primitive true eyes in the animal kingdom). The mouth is at the end of a muscular, flexible tube, about a quarter of the way along the under-surface.

Slithering to the open end of one of the ventilation shafts that perforate termite nests, a worm will hang over the lip, stretching out its front end and waving it

from side to side. Passing worker termites that touch the worm's nose become trapped in a layer of sticky mucus, whereupon the worm recoils, curling up around the unfortunate insect in an adhesive death embrace. The tube-like mouth penetrates the hapless victim, sucking out its internal juices. Interestingly, the worms know when to avoid soldier termites, which can bite back.

The Kenyan termite worm is a planarian, a member of a large group of carnivorous flatworms that prey on anything from microbes to fish with rapacious enthusiasm. Close relatives are the planarians native to British ponds, visible as small black specks clinging to water plants. But the free-living lifestyles of planarians stand at one end of a spectrum of flatworm feeding habits that range through occasional partnerships with other animals to a blatant parasitic habit. Tapeworms, for example, are flatworms whose adaptation to the insides of a host is total.

The evolution of flatworms, then, is a pageant of parasitism and reveals important clues about how this state evolved. Parasitism is not special or occasional: every wild animal (and many domestic animals and people) are ridden with parasites at all times without even knowing it. Every school biology student knows that dogfish are little more than swimming bags of round-

worms, and billions of people in the third world labour under a load of malaria, sleeping sickness (caused by parasitic microbes), and bilharzia (caused by a flatworm, *Schistosoma mansoni*).

Pond planarians and Kenyan termite worms are simple predators, but some of their cousins live with other animals. One, *Bdellonera candida* shelters in the gills of the horseshoe crab, picking up the scraps of its host (a messy eater). This happy coexistence could be the first step towards parasitism. Other worms live inside the bodies of sea urchins, frogs and other animals, browsing on gut microbes, and occasionally taking bites out of the host itself. This sinister trend starts with *Ichthyophaga*, a planarian-like worm that burrows into the skin of skates and rays to suck blood; continues with the blood-sucking liver fluke *Fasciola* in sheep and cattle; and reaches its acme with *Schistosoma*, the human blood-fluke that lives in the veins of the liver, bathed in its own food supply.

Although the life styles of the Kenyan termite worm and its cousins, the blood fluke, seem to be complete opposites, they are bound by a sequence of stages in the evolution of parasitism so complete that the transition from one to the other is almost insensible.

Henry Gee

H. G. ("TUPPY") OWEN-SMITH

Rugby for England and cricket for South Africa

H. G. ("Tuppy") Owen-Smith, who has died at his home in Cape Town at the age of 81, was one of the outstanding all-round games players of the years between the wars.

If he owed his fame mostly to his achievements outside his native South Africa, that was because from arriving at Oxford as a Rhodes scholar in 1931 until 1938 he spent his time in England, first as an undergraduate and then as a medical student at St Mary's Hospital.

Harold Geoffrey Owen-Smith was born in Cape Town on February 18, 1909, and educated at that great nursery of South African sportsmen, Diocesan College, Rondebosch, where he was coached in cricket by such well-known English professionals as Jack Newman and Jack O'Connor. When just 20, and with no Currie Cup experience behind him, he was chosen to tour England with H. G. Deane's South African side.

He was an instant success. "Nothing stood out more than the dazzling exploits of Owen-Smith... an object lesson to everyone against whom he played," said *Wisden*. He was a magnificent and tireless fielder, a more than useful leg-break and googly bowler, and on his day, a glorious batsman. His most notable innings was in the third Test match of 1929 at Headingley, when he scored 129 (102 of them before lunch on the last day) and put on 103 for the last wicket with A. J. Bell in South Africa's second innings, a partnership which came near to saving a lost cause.

It was as a Test cricketer, therefore, that Owen-Smith went up to Oxford, where he soon became an Isis Idol, excelling not only at cricket,

but also as a brilliant rugby full back and a tough and elusive welterweight boxer. At all three sports he was a constant thorn in the Cambridge side.

In 1934, he won the first of his 10 rugby caps as England's full back (he was only once on a losing England side) and in doing so became the first South African to play rugby for England and cricket for South Africa. Only C. B. Van Ryneveld has done it since.

Owen-Smith had an especially memorable match against Wales at Swansea in 1936, which ended in a 0-0 draw and deprived Wales of the Triple Crown; he played an important part in England's great victory over the All Blacks at Twickenham in 1936, and in 1937 he captained the first England side to beat Scotland at Murrayfield.

From 1935 until 1937 he played cricket for a strong Middlesex side, when time allowed, and in 1938 he returned to South Africa where he practised as a doctor at Rondebosch. During the war he served in the Middle East with the South African Army Medical Corps.

"Tuppy" Owen-Smith's personality went well with his sport achievements. He was ever cheerful and renowned for his modesty. He played his games as the fanny took him, adventurously if he possibly could, invariably humorously and with the improvisation which attaches itself to genius. He made only friends and died peacefully, waiting only for Michael, one of his two sons, to return from Bloemfontein where, as Sports Editor of *The Cape Times*, he had been reporting the recent tour by the English cricketers. Owen-Smith leaves a widow, Margaret, and one other son.

REGINALD MOORE

Woodrow Wyatt writes:

Perhaps you would let me add to your obituary (February 16) of Reginald Moore, or Graham as he was known to his family and friends.

I met him first during the War. When on leave, I stayed with him and his wife, Elizabeth Berridge, in Wales where, at one time, they lived in a large, rambling, ghost-ridden house. Moore, ever a sports enthusiast, created a local cricket club to which James Hanley, the distinguished writer, was enlisted as treasurer.

Before the General Election of 1945, I rehearsed my election speeches in his garden with Graham and his wife, unbeknown to me, shrieking with laughter behind the bushes, as well they might have done. With not too much money about, we drank

profusely of champagne cocktails made from cooking brandy and Perry, a sort of sparkling cider made from pears.

Graham Moore was immensely kind and helpful to new writers and others. His main love was the short story and he was an excellent practitioner of it. He shunned literary parties of the *Horizon* kind, thinking those who attended were unduly pleased with what literary prowess they had. He was shy and quiet except among his family and friends, when his natural exuberance could be released.

When I was overseas in the Army, he helped me keep *English Story* going by sifting the chaff from the wheat and sending on only the wheat. He was a whole and rounded man without a trace of malice or envy.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.D. Browne and Miss E.J. Bird. The engagement is announced between Shaun, son of the Hon. Mrs. Browne, of Bergham Hall, Castle Camps, Cambridge, and Elizabeth, daughter of the Rev. Rex and Mrs. Bird, of The Vicarage, Castle Hedingham, Essex.

Mr J.M. Alexander and Miss F.E. Westaway. The engagement is announced between Julian Mark, son of Mr and Mrs D.S. Alexander, of Farnham, Dorset, and Frances Elizabeth, daughter of Mr C.G. Westaway, of Widemouth Bay, Bude, and Mrs M.L. Westaway, of Plymouth.

Mr W.G.F. Atkins and Miss C.A. Simpson. The engagement is announced between Guy, youngest son of Captain J.F.F. Atkins, of Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria, and of Mrs V.G. Atkins, of Bilton, Avon, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs B. Simpson, of Brockenhurst, Hampshire.

Mr C.E. Beattie and Miss H.C. Watson. The engagement is announced between Clive, second son of Squadron Leader C.R. Beattie, of Houghton, Huntingdon, and of Mrs E.V.A. Slade, of Chesham, Buckinghamshire, and Heather, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.S. Watson, of Biddenden, Bedfordshire.

Mr N. Brittain and Miss A. Graham. The engagement is announced between Nicholas, youngest son of Mr and Mrs E.F. Brittain, of Islington, and Annabel, daughter of Mr and Mrs A.C. Graham, of Mill Hill.

Mr F.J. Cleveland and Miss S.J. Bragge. The engagement is announced between Francis, youngest son of the late Douglas Cleveland, of Barnsbury Square, Islington, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward Bragge, of Fairfield House, Peterborough.

Mr P.H. Combe and Miss A.J. Wilson. The engagement is announced between Peter, youngest son of the late Mr Neville Combe, and of Mrs E.F. Wilson, of Bishops Cleeve, Wiltshire, and Alison, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Wilson, of Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Mr A. Thomas and Miss S. Friele. The engagement is announced between Alan, son of Mr and Mrs Nigel Thomas, of Wales, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicolaus Friele, of Mvurwi, Zimbabwe.

Mr D.C. Crickles and Miss E.J. Crawshaw. The engagement is announced between Desmond, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Patrick Crickles, of West Field Cottage, Upton Grey, Basingstoke, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Crawshaw, of Teasbury Grange, Norwich.

Mr P.M. Dawson and Miss S. Darlington. The engagement is announced between Peter Michael, only son of Mr and Mrs H.A. Dawson, of Wimborne, Dorset, and Sarah, youngest daughter of Mr R. and the late Mrs V.R. Darlington, of Market Drayton, Shropshire.

Mr J. Goldie and Miss E.J.M. Shanklin. The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs J.M. Goldie, of Blackpool, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr A.R. Martin, of Bracknell, and Mrs M.D. Shanklin, of Doodleston, Chester.

Mr C.G. Lawless and Miss J.E. Smart. The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Lawless, of Great Rissington, Gloucestershire, and Jane, daughter of Dr and Mrs George Smart, of Cranford, Edinburgh.

Mr A.A. Macpherson and Miss C.S.C. Weychan. The engagement is announced between Allan Alastair, eldest son of Mr and Mrs A.N. Macpherson, of Thurham, Kent, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr P. Weychan, of Fowey, Cornwall.

Mr G.H.M. Martin and Miss P.M. Hensley. The engagement is announced between Giles, only son of Mr and Mrs A.R. Martin, of Bracknell, Berkshire, and Patricia, daughter of Mr and Mrs H.N. Hensley, of Langham, Rutland.

Mr J. Nassau and Miss A. Benny. The engagement is announced between Remy, son of Mr and Mrs Nassau, Lausanne, Switzerland, and Amanda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Benny, St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Mr A. Thomas and Miss S. Friele. The engagement is announced between Alan, son of Mr and Mrs Nigel Thomas, of Wales, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicolaus Friele, of Mvurwi, Zimbabwe.

Luncheons

HM Government. The Hon. Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at 1 Carlton Gardens in honour of Senor Enrique Baron Crespo, President of the European Parliament.

South Africa Association. Mr John Eccles, General Manager of the Commonwealth Development Corporation, was the guest of honour at the annual luncheon of the South African Association held yesterday at the Charing Cross Hotel. Mr P.D.O. Liddell, chairman of the association, received the guests.

Lanchtime Comment Club. Mr Norman Willis was the guest speaker at a luncheon of the Lanchtime Comment Club held

yesterday at the Connaught Rooms. Mr Martin Barber, chairman, presided.

English-Speaking Union. Mr David Hicks, Director-General of the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth, and Mrs Valerie Mitchell, deputy director-general, received the guests at a literary luncheon held yesterday at Dartmouth House. Mr Winston S. Churchill, MP, was the guest of honour and speaker, and Mrs Edward Norman-Butler, Chairwoman of the Cultural Affairs Committee, also spoke. Mr David Hicks presided.

Paviors' Company. The following have been installed as officers of the Paviors' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr A.G. Tate; Upper Warden, Mr D.S. Little; Renter Warden, Mr W.E. Heinemann.

Honorary degrees

The Princess Royal, President of the Council for National Academic Awards, will confer the council's honorary doctorate on the following at St James's Palace on May 18:

Professor David Bellamy, broadcaster; Sir Austria Bide, former chairman of Glaxo Holdings; Professor Patricia Clarke, FRS, emerita professor, London University; Mr Gerald Fairclough, chief executive, Celltech; Dr David Hessayon, writer; and Dr John Skehel, FRCS, director, National Institute for Medical Research.

Appointments

Dr Mike Baxter to be a member of the Farm Animal Welfare Council. Mrs Margaret Cooper and Mr F. "Tanner" Shields are reappointed to the council.

Bridge

Tollenmache Cup: Kent registered its first win in the English Bridge Union's teams of eight county championship after a thrilling contest terminating in a split tie with London.

KENT: P. and S. Trevellick, P. Collins, P. D. G. Law, N. Jones, P. Taylor, D. W. Williams, and D. O'Connor.

STANDINGS: 1 - Kent and London, 2 - Gloucestershire, 3 - Wiltshire, 4 - Middlesex (holders), 5 - Devon, 6 - Warwickshire, 7 - Dorset, 8 - Northamptonshire, 9 - Oxfordshire, 10 - Herefordshire, 11 - Shropshire, 12 - Somerset, 13 - Gloucestershire, 14 - Wiltshire, 15 - Devon, 16 - Warwickshire, 17 - Dorset, 18 - Northamptonshire, 19 - Oxfordshire, 20 - Herefordshire, 21 - Shropshire, 22 - Somerset, 23 - Gloucestershire, 24 - Wiltshire, 25 - Devon, 26 - Warwickshire, 27 - Dorset, 28 - Northamptonshire, 29 - Oxfordshire, 30 - Herefordshire, 31 - Shropshire, 32 - Somerset, 33 - Gloucestershire, 34 - Wiltshire, 35 - Devon, 36 - Warwickshire, 37 - Dorset, 38 - Northamptonshire, 39 - Oxfordshire, 40 - Herefordshire, 41 - Shropshire, 42 - Somerset, 43 - Gloucestershire, 44 - Wiltshire, 45 - Devon, 46 - Warwickshire, 47 - Dorset, 48 - Northamptonshire, 49 - Oxfordshire, 50 - Herefordshire, 51 - Shropshire, 52 - Somerset, 53 - Gloucestershire, 54 - Wiltshire, 55 - Devon, 56 - Warwickshire, 57 - Dorset, 58 - Northamptonshire, 59 - Oxfordshire, 60 - Herefordshire, 61 - Shropshire, 62 - Somerset, 63 - Gloucestershire, 64 - Wiltshire, 65 - Devon, 66 - Warwickshire, 67 - Dorset, 68 - Northamptonshire, 69 - Oxfordshire, 70 - Herefordshire, 71 - Shropshire, 72 - Somerset, 73 - Gloucestershire, 74 - Wiltshire, 75 - Devon, 76 - Warwickshire, 77 - Dorset, 78 - Northamptonshire, 79 - Oxfordshire, 80 - Herefordshire, 81 - Shropshire, 82 - Somerset, 83 - Gloucestershire, 84 - Wiltshire, 85 - Devon, 86 - Warwickshire, 87 - Dorset, 88 - Northamptonshire, 89 - Oxfordshire, 9

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These items "only asked for by those who had attended the previous concerts, and was magnificently supported." The most popular items were those by Richard Wagner, which included the *Tannhäuser* Overture, a collection of four pieces from *Die Meistersinger*, *Parsifal*, *Walküre*, and *Siegfried*, and a concert solo - dramatic. Next in popularity were the chamber items by German and Austrian composers: Strauss's *Czardas*, Baron,

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MAR 2

ON THIS DAY

1938



The Saar territory had been occupied by an international force under the League of Nations since the end of the First World War, before which it had belonged to Germany. Hitler arrived in the capital, Saarbrücken to an ecstatic welcome on March 1.

BRITISH TROOPS IN THE SAAR

A FAREWELL CONCERT

POPULARITY WITH INHABITANTS

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir—I feel sure that if your readers had been here during the last few days they would have felt proud of their country's representatives in the Saar to see the send-off afforded to the 1st Battalion, The East Lancashire Regiment, both in Saarbrücken and Brebach.

On Sunday night the popular band of this battalion gave a farewell concert (the last of a series) in the Festhall, the largest hall in Saarbrücken. It was a concert which will not readily be forgotten by those who were there. 1,700 people were present, of whom 300 had to stand throughout the three hours' performance, and about 400 people had to be refused admission. General Brind the commander of the Saar Force (with his principal staff officers and a number of Italian (the only foreign contingent left here) and British officers and their friends were there.

The programmes contained "request items" only, asked for by those who had attended the previous concerts, and was magnificently rendered. The most popular items were those by Richard Wagner, which included the *Tannhäuser* Overture, a selection of four pieces from *Die Meistersinger*, *Parsifal*, *Walküre*, and *Siegfried*, and a concert solo—romantic. Next in popularity were the items by German and Austrian composers: Strauss's *Czary Baron*,

Munz's *Eisenstein* March and Lohar's *The Merry Widow*. Other works included selections from Puccini's and Verdi's operas, Bizet's *Carmen* and Grieg's *Peer Gynt* Suite. The concert solo, by the popular Band-Sergeant Davis, was accompanied by long and hearty applause, and was followed by a posthorn solo by the same instrumentalist; while last, Sergeant Davis took part in a xylophone duet.

During the concert it was announced that Lieutenant-Colonel Willcox, the officer commanding the battalion, had decided, in recognition of the appreciation which had been shown by the people of Saarbrücken for the band's programmes to give the proceeds of this concert to the local "Winter Help" fund; the announcement was received with applause and cheers. The performance ended with the battalion's march-past—"Deutschland über Alles," and "God save the King." The German national anthem was heartily sung by the large audience, which stood with uplifted arm—in the Nazi salute—during the playing of both national anthems. Afterwards the hall rang with loud applause and cheers, and the bandmaster (Mr. Kleinmüller) was besieged by a large number of admirers anxious to congratulate him and to thank him for his marvellous performances during the last two months.

On Tuesday morning The East Lancashire Regiment provided a guard of honour at Saarbrücken Station for the departure of the last Italian contingent, having previously done similar honour on the occasion of the departure of the Netherlands and Swedish contingents.

Later in the day the battalion marched on its billets to Brebach Station to enroute for Calais and home. The route to the station was lined by cheering crowds, while the station itself was packed with people from Brebach and Saarbrücken. It was a wonderful send-off for this popular unit; the local inhabitants were genuinely sorry at its departure and its stay here will be long remembered.

Yours faithfully
Saarbrücken, Feb 27.

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THE TIMES

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THE ARTS

Male MP preferred

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Seventy years after Nancy Astor's arrival in the House of Commons, it remains the best men's club in the world, with fewer than 50 women among its 600 members. Even a decade and three elections after Thatcher, the ideal Conservative candidate for parliament apparently remains a middle-aged, middle-class white male with a wife, two kids and a hatchback.

As if to prove that nothing much changes, 40 Minutes (BBC 2) spent last night looking at the High Peak district of Derbyshire and its continuing reluctance to allow a woman into the next voting race. The programme title, "A Safe Sex for a Safe Seat", unfortunately gave away its ending, but along the route there were some wonderfully characteristic shots of Tory cheerleaders and their young hopefuls, all apparently cast from some Boving Brothers comedy.

Those who still believe that this country has been through any kind of social, sexual or political revolution in the last ten years need no more than a weekend amid the High Peaks to remind themselves that English attitudes never die.

Elsewhere, however, one or two things are changing, not least perhaps our readiness to talk about the condom. Just 120 years after the rubber contraceptive made its public debut at the World's Fair of 1871, a weird and wonderful BBC 2 series called *Small Objects of Desire* looked at the century of sexual messiness characterized by the fact that while we referred to the French letter, the French always believed it to be an English invention, while the Germans believed it not to exist at all. However, at least condoms are no longer banished to a box under the barber's comb labeled "something for the weekend". On ITV, *This Week* interviewed a group of Asian female runaways who are facing death threats from the husbands they are escaping. One has resorted to plastic surgery, others are hiding abroad, all are facing a culture clash which has led to groups of Moslem vigilantes roaming Birmingham trying to recapture the fleeing victims of arranged marriages.

Ironically it would seem that the immigrant community is not progressing nearly as fast down the path of tolerance and female emancipation as those who have stayed in their own countries.

John Russell Taylor
reviews exhibitions
of Scottish and
Icelandic painting

If you suggest to a Scot that the brilliant hues of the Scottish Colourists may be a reaction to the somewhat grim and greyish environment in which they found themselves, the response is likely to be aggressive.

What do you mean, no colour in Scotland? Icelanders are not quite so ready with rebuttal. Yes, they say, Iceland is undeniably dark for some of the year, and no doubt a yearning for the brief but brilliant summer may have a lot to do with what Icelandic artists paint.

It is, presumably, largely by coincidence that two major touring shows, one of 20th-century Scottish art and the other of 20th-century Icelandic art, should both be achieving their place in the London sun at the same time. But since they are simultaneously in the Barbican Centre, it is natural to indulge in comparison.

I reviewed both of them before, at their respective starting-points: Scottish Art since 1900 at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art (now at the Barbican Art Gallery, to April 16), and Landscapes from a High Latitude at the Ferens Gallery, Hull (now at the Barbican Concourse Gallery, to April 8).

There are, first, extraordinary and perhaps not altogether expected parallels between the two national arts. The painters of both tend towards brilliant colouring, and it is not too wild a generalization to see landscape as the fundamental inspiration.

The Icelandic show takes the bull by the horns, announcing in its title that it concerns landscape — though in fact landscape is defined very broadly. And, naturally, many artists represented in the Scottish show paint all sorts of things which have, superficially, little to do with landscape.

All the same, there is a general feeling that all these artists are somehow suffused with a sense of place — whatever their paintings may be about. This is definitely true the closer they approach abstraction: Icelanders such as Johann Briegle, or Scots such as Joan Eardley, seem to be impelled towards abstraction through analysis of the landscape before their eyes.



Scottish Art since 1900: "Two Women Sewing", an undated oil on canvas by Robert MacBryde, now at the Barbican Art Gallery

And yet Briegle's patterns of gorgeous colour and Eardley's flurries of violently applied paint, though they take on an independent life of their own, never finally lose touch with the rocks and plants, the expanses of sky and sea, which have given them birth. In either show you could find perfect demonstrations of how the fusion we call Abstract Expressionism came about.

The fact that Iceland has such a small population makes all the more remarkable the high proportion who are not only artists, but artists of strength and originality. It must be only geographical isolation which has prevented a figure like Johannes S. Kjarval from being internationally recognized as a major symbolist, able to imbue the simplest scene with a humming inner mystery which compels attention.

He can find a bounding secret life in a vase of flowers, and seems to have been personally present at that primeval stage when gods and spirits walked the land.

Other Icelandic painters are

more suave and less wildly variable. Jon Stefansson was unusual in Iceland, in that he looked more towards Paris than towards continental Scandinavia for his models. But his originality too is beyond question. And anywhere else painters such as Gunnlaugur Scheving and Finnur Jonsson would surely be recognized as major figures: no doubt the art market will be duly alerted. Among the current figures, Sigurdur Orlygsson, with his large, slightly Monty-Pythonesque paintings (sometimes with sculptural excrescences) is beginning to look odd and eccentric.

I should be able to say that the course of Scottish art this century is more familiar to me than that of Icelandic. But, to the southern English, all too much remains a closed book. The reasons are sometimes similar: a lot of Scottish art, like much Icelandic, hardly crosses the national border, not because it is rejected out-of-hand elsewhere, but because it has such an enthusiastic audience at home that not so much is left to

wander. However, that does not mean that we should be ignorant even of the general picture.

The Barbican Art Gallery, with its sealed-off coves of concrete, can be very constricting for some shows. But here each section forwards the argument, proving just a nice size for selected highlights which fall naturally together.

Scottish Colourists (with J.D. Fergusson outstanding, whether he is painting a luridly made-up turn-of-the-century lady or a camouflaged battleship in the First World War; early Modernism; meticulous, slightly surrealistic realist; Forties followers of Picasso and Neo-Romanticism, and so on right up to the new Glasgow figurative painters: all are coherently laid out before us, following from one to another as clearly and inevitably as the graded pearls in a necklace. There is also an expressive division between upstairs (modern) and downstairs (contemporary), with

just Eardley, appropriately, bridging the two worlds.

Even in Scotland, there were discoveries to be made. Edward Baird, first a Surrealist, then a Surrealist, though almost unknown, immediately takes his place alongside the already admired James Cowie as a master of that ambiguous area where, the more precise everything is, the less we can feel sure of anything. Stanley Currier, with his bold and brilliant conventionalizations of everyday scenes, is an early Modernist worth detailed investigation. Robert MacBryde, always overshadowed by his companion and sometimes collaborator Robert Colquhoun, here has several works quite as strong and personal as anything by the other Robert.

And — dare one say it? — the whole show, as well as individual works in it, benefits from some compression and concentration of effect. If it does not, for the English, constitute a real, overdue revelation of the glories just across the border, it must be feared that nothing ever will.

Power to the people

Simon Tait talks
to Leningrad's
cultural supremo

Electoral cynicism has reached even the arts in Russia. We had requested an interview with Mrs Tatiana Zakharova, the deputy mayor of Leningrad responsible for arts and culture.

When we heard that it had been granted that same day, there were very smiles among our Kirov Ballet hosts. A fortnight's notice is usually required, and no guarantee even then. "She wants to get the message out that the arts and culture in Leningrad are safe under the old regime," one Kirov administrator said.

This Sunday, Leningrad elects its city council. The city's cultural future takes its place alongside such issues as food shortages, homelessness and the increasing bureaucratic and financial battle with Moscow. For the first time, Mrs Zakharova and the other nine deputy mayors who form the cabinet of the council are being opposed, with the Leningrad People's Front presenting a real threat to a hitherto unchallenged Communist authority.

Leningrad's citizens are arguably the most fanatical in the world about classical music and dance. Teenage girls have posters of Rostropovich and Lipina, the Kirov male stars, on their bedroom walls. When Rostropovich gave his two concerts a fortnight ago, students were offering European their fur hats in exchange for tickets. Each city district has its own dance school and music school.

Mrs Zakharova promises to spend nine million roubles on restoring the beautiful inner-city buildings in a "zone of care", many still derelict after the 900-day siege of Leningrad nearly 50 years ago. Some will become residential again, others are to be concert halls, theatres and museums.

"The programme has not been created in the silence of offices," she said. "It has been a collective work of all the creative unions, which number seven in Leningrad. The Fund is called the Fund of Renaissance." Foreign companies, chiefly from Scandinavia, have been asked to tender for contracts "so that the newly restored cultural institutions can start functioning as soon as possible".

"It's not accidental that the city of Leningrad is called the city of high culture," said Mrs Zakharova, speaking in the newly-restored gold and marble splendour of the former Maryinsky Palace, now the town hall. "It's our generation that now has to face the job of maintaining the buildings and monuments of Leningrad."

Alongside the Hermitage Museum, the most famous artistic "monument" is probably the Kirov Ballet. It is funded directly by the Ministry of Culture, not the city, and its director, Oleg Vinogradov, claims not to know even what his budget is: the bills go straight to Moscow.

"But we support them," said Mrs Zakharova. "For instance, three years ago we built a special residence for the Kirov dancers and those involved in the theatre. The money has not been paid back yet by the Ministry of Culture. We do hope that they will some time."

The Kirov Ballet is now on foreign tour: in Paris, Dublin, London, Birmingham, and Italy until September, with only two weeks at home. Is there resentment at their long absence, and their inaccessibility to ordinary Leningrad residents even when they are at home? "You have touched a raw nerve. The bulk of tickets for the Kirov are sold to foreign tourists, and a very small portion is left over for the citizens. For the last two years, the management of the theatre has been trying to make it more accessible to domestic audiences. For the first time a performance was done to Leningrad students, and there was one for orphans, but it is very difficult to make them more accessible for the short time available."

The "Renaissance" programme is due to be completed by the city's 300th anniversary in 2003.

Voyeurs, hoods and trolls

THEATRE
Benedict NightingalePeer Gynt
Olivier Theatre

Ibsen's insistence that *Peer Gynt* was a "dramatic poem" and "not for acting" has not stopped the play surfacing regularly in the world's theatres over the past 100 years, and one or two of those productions left me feeling I had sat through the whole lot. Nearly four hours of *Everyman* saga can be hard on eyes, mind and bottom.

But both the inner and outer man should emerge pretty buoyantly from Declan Donnellan's revival. Somehow he has taken Ibsen's hurly-burly styles — earthy comedy, parable, near-tragedy, satire, and spiritual debate, and cohered them into something fluent, pacy and simple to the point of roughness.

The tone is set at the start with Peer's mother, normally a mournful old crone, transformed by Mona Hammond into a feisty harrier chasing her impossible son round and round the stage. Throughout there is bustle and movement on boards furnished with little but a timber roof that swivels or opens to become whatever Peer's wanderings demand: a mountain, the Troll King's realm, an upturned boat, or the African desert.

Consistently enough, Kenneth McLeish's translation is almost too colloquial. We get "pillock", "get stuffed", even "bugger off". True, the fact that Ibsen wrote in rhymed verse has inhibited some translators from acknowledging



Riding high: Meera Syal as Anitra and Stephen Moore as Peer Gynt

his bluntness. But when Philip Voss's troll talks of getting a job at the National Theatre, and Peer replies, "Break a leg", the line between the direct and the silly seems crossed.

Another worry is the doubling of Peer himself. Most of us have seen movies with different actors impersonating different ages of a character. But it is hard to think of a major play susceptible to such handling. One would not wish Hamlet to leave for England as Michael J. Fox and return as Marlon Brando; and even though this case is scarcely as extreme, the loss is more than credibility.

Young Gynt is David Morrissey, all raw imagination and unformed energy in search of objectives less drab than Norway offers. But halfway through, his eager smiles become the fly grins of Stephen Moore, whose Peer evolves from sleazy middle-aged to a coarse, bitter old one. Both performances are strong and un-

sentimental; but emotional consistency is inevitably missing. It is hard for a second actor to embody the human potential established by a first.

That matters, because humanity and potential are the play's subjects. They are what Peer has misused, distorted, squandered in his search for wealth, power and self-esteem. Take away the love he has inexplicably inspired in Sara-Mair-Thomas's Solveig, and he is an onion with no centre or, worse, a dehumanized troll.

Maybe the production sacrifices depth for speed and visual effect, but those are no small compensations. A busy cast changes from drunk villagers to nobles to mad people trailing straitjackets, but is never better than as the phalanx of hoodlums, voyeurs and clattering dolls that peoples subterranean trolldom. Tails notwithstanding, they do what Ibsen wanted, represent you and me and everyone at our worst: quite a warning.

Homage to the baroque

CONCERTS

Paul Griffiths

Moscow Soloists
Barbican

Yuri Bashmet: imaginative points

so exciting, partly because the use of solo strings with a modern harpsichord cast back to the Bach style of a quarter-century ago, partly because much of the detail failed to tell in this hall, and partly because Bashmet's colleagues

chose not to follow his imaginative points of non-vibrato on the lead viola line.

But the concert ended marvelously with the Schnittke piece, his Sonata for Violin, Strings and Harpsichord (1968), which boasted bright-toned and immaculate solo playing from Oleg Kagan. The piece has the slow-fast-slow-fast pattern of a sonata da chiesa, both of the fast sections being scherzos on nagging banalities, while the second slow movement is a passacaglia on glistening string chords, ending with the soloist in high harmonics (Kagan here was astonishing) against an accompaniment reduced to accordion-style wheezes.

Occasionally the work leaves its origin as a violin-piano sonata undisguised, but the expansion clearly allowed Schnittke to uncover a homage to the baroque as much as to Shostakovich, and to create a range of fascinating inventions for string ensemble. There will be more Schnittke from this group on Monday.

Of the listener's as well as the performer's imagination, the performance on this occasion took a literal and not sufficiently fanciful view of the content.

One other composer featured in the programme was Dmitri Kabalevsky. Himself a pianist, he left a handful of piano works among his larger output which have at times been found useful for teaching purposes. What is less apparent, on the evidence of the third of his three Sonatas played here, is that so mundane a level of keyboard writing was worth the not inconsiderable effort of learning and playing in public.

Noël Goodwin

Yeoh Ean Mei
Purcell Room

song by Cole Porter.

She was also inclined to weigh heavily on the more emotional aspects of Schumann's *Arabesque*, the major work she played. For all that this music, eight fantasies of disproportionate length and content that the composer grouped into a synthesis of assorted moods rather than linked themes, can be vividly provocative

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Rhapsodic triumph for prodigy

Barry Millington

Philharmonia/
Sinopoli
Royal Festival Hall

For all that Giuseppe Sinopoli has come to be regarded as something of a liability to the Philharmonia, he continues to draw capacity audiences. Or was it, perhaps, the staple diet of Dvorak's Cello Concerto and Tchaikovsky's "Pathétique" Symphony that had the queue for returns at the Festival Hall winding round and out of the door? Or was it the prodigious Israeli cellist Matt Haimovitz, still in his teens, and as much a product of media hype as Sinopoli himself?

I do not share the view, frequently canvassed, that Sinopoli is entirely devoid of musical sensitivity. But both his technique and his musicianship are all too often called into question. On a basic level, neither the first nor the second movement of the Dvorak started together, the wind choir of the latter producing what sounded

the solo violinist, Haimovitz, clined towards him to establish genuine rapport.

His technique is generally crude, though only his vibrant saved him in the treacherous upper reaches of his final terrace. Too much is expected of young artists such as this, Haimovitz undoubtedly has great talent, yet to blossom fully.

For evidence of true musical ship in Sinopoli's "Pathétique" listened in vain. Where was the emotional wasteland of the symphony's opening, the desperate pathos of the finale, or even the electrifying energy of the scherzo? In each case, we were given a synthetic substitute; this was conducting by numbers. Nobody wants over-inflated Tchaikovsky but uniform blandness and empty gesturing of artificially slow tempi are not the solution either.

THE ARTS/ROCK

Minefields and mischief

LIVE REVIEW
Alasdair CreweCaroline Tretzine
The Camden Falcon

One of the great surprise phenomena of the last few years has been the inexorable rise of the female singer/songwriter. Few could have foreseen, for example, the way in which Tretzine's brand of raucous, raucous rock has soared into popularity.

However, introspective intellectualism is not all there is to this new wave of talented female acts. That was powerfully demonstrated by Caroline Tretzine, with Clea and McLeod, on a dark and stormy night in Camden Town. Both acts are recent recruits to Uffity Records, the deliberately unconventional label set up by one Billy Bragg.

As leading lights in the International Women's Housework Campaign, Clea and McLeod's talents lie unashamedly in the realm of polemic. Their songs serve as a guide to some of the

more hazardous minefields in the battleground of sexual politics. So far, so unpromising. However, Clea and McLeod take the material by the scruff of the neck and force it to work. Two voices, raw and gutsy, interact hypocritically, with more than a nod toward traditional African singing styles. The only lacking is provided by a double bass, played with a percussive snap-style, almost a third voice in itself.

Caroline Tretzine also refuses to conform to the accepted female singer/songwriter stereotype. Black-clad and intense, she takes

the traditional image of the screaming female fanatic, treating it just a little over the edge with a mischievous hint of self-parody.

A brief spell as singer/guitarist with quirky art-rockers Blue Aeroplanes has given her an engagingly off-centre approach to song writing. Her songs are intimate rather than introverted, pecking an incisive lyrical wit which makes even her more gentle material a snare for the unwary.

However, it is the voice which is most striking. At once both tremulous and emotionally charged, she conjures up a dreamy and sensuous lit on "Jealousy", while hitting a note of knowing arrogance on "Vicious Rumours". This she combines with a powerful guitar technique ranging from intricate cross-harmonies to chunky rock rhythms. We shall hear more of her.



Dark lady: singer/songwriter Caroline Tretzine, snaring the unwary in her gentle numbers with lyrical wit

After the revolution, let's rock

Mike Nicholls
reports from

Romania on the first British pop tour, backed by the Foreign Office, to visit the war-torn country since the uprising

Just a few months after December's bloody revolution, three British bands have toured Romania. The accepted wisdom of the music industry is that artists play abroad in order to sell records in other territories. In Bucharest, it seemed that this could not be further from the minds of the members of Skin Games, Crazyhead and Jesus Jones.

For one thing, their records are simply not available in Eastern Europe; currency regulations make this unfeasible. But the groups expressed themselves thrilled just to be able to fulfil the demand for Western rock 'n' roll.

"The young people here take it as a compliment that we've come over to play for them," explains Alex, the bass player with Crazyhead, a raunchy Rolling Stones-style outfit from Leicester. "We all feel very privileged to be playing in post-revolutionary Romania, and to be with people who are almost religiously fervent about what happened. Two months ago they were not allowed to talk to Westerners, and in some cases not even each other."

The "Rock For Romania" roadshow opened in Timisoara, birthplace of December's traumatic events. It then proceeded to Bucharest, the capital, where 16,000 rock-starved revellers saw the three acts playing two nights in a modern sports hall. The tour wound up in Brasov, high in the Transylvanian Alps, former stomping ground of Vlad the Impaler, alias Count Dracula.

The audiences were mainly teenage, with more girls than at the average United Kingdom rock gig. Considering the drabness of most of the department stores here, they looked surprisingly chic, with a higher percentage of trendy haircuts than one usually encounters at, say, the Town & Country Club. The fans were also remarkably vocal. For the first time ever, clearly, they felt safe enough to express emotions which have long been bottled up.

The atmosphere was clearly contagious. "In Timisoara it was incredibly moving," says Mike Edwards of Jesus Jones, a new

band whose frantic sound combines elements of rock and hip hop.

"People were so excited about the prospects of a concert that they bordered on the hysterical. Before the music started, they lit candles on the side of the stage in memory of those killed in the revolution. Then there was a minute's silence — but not like one in Britain, where somebody always titters. You couldn't hear a sound, which was amazing, considering the number of people."

Each night the Brits were supported by a couple of local groups, usually heavy rockers in the Bon Jovi mould. One band was fronted by a large middle-aged lady delivering word-perfect renditions of standards such as Rod Stewart's "Sailing". She appeared about as "agony-apt" as the average cabaret singer in Halifax — yet she was banned from performing for 10 years for daring to sing in English.

Now she is back with a vengeance, her *piece de resistance* being a searing rendition of the Plastic Ono Band's "Power to the People", followed by the equally appropriate "All Right Now". The soldiers in the hall joined in the audience participation, tunic loosened and guns checked into the cloakroom.

"We're not doing this for the money, we're doing it for the Romanian kids," says Wendy Page of Skin Games, who have



Wendy Page and Skin Games beside a Transylvanian castle: "We're not doing it for money, but for the kids"

been signed to Epic for three years. "I'm glad we're not here to sell records because it would be so easy for people to be cynical about it. There's not even any record company involvement. No one from Epic or EMI (which finds the other two bands through the independent label, Food) is even here."

The tour was actually underwritten by the British Council, the Foreign Office department whose purpose is to promote cultural relations abroad. Veteran Radio 1 disc jockey Annie Nightingale was also on the trip. When a Romanian concert promoter appealed, via BBC 2's *Reportage* programme, for someone to satisfy

the demand for UK rock music, the British Council's Edward Craxton stepped in. Through contacts in the record industry he was able to find the bands willing to play, and a stage production company prepared to take on a logistical nightmare. "Harvey Goldsmith reckoned any Romanian tour would cost at

'Before the music started, they lit candles on the side of the stage in memory of those killed in the revolution. Then there was a minute's silence. You couldn't hear a sound...'

least £100,000," says Craxton. "We've managed to do it for a quarter of that, and in the process spread enough goodwill to give British music a good name for years to come."

Wendy Page, a Welsh girl from the valleys, adds: "I suppose we're ambassadors, really. To think that a few years ago I'd never been further than Swansea and now we're all involved in exporting Western culture behind what was the Iron Curtain."

A few hours later Wendy and her band posed in front of a Transylvanian castle. It might not actually be Dracula's old pad, but there is still an inescapable feeling that history is in the making: the universal appeal of rock 'n' roll bridging a culture gap which, until recently, appeared unbridgeable.

Round about midnight, all three bands combined on stage for an 'almighty finale' — a rousing version of Neil Young's "Rockin' in the Free World", coincidentally written a few months before last year's upheavals.

"It's a very ironic song," observes Mike Edwards of Jesus Jones. "It's meant to be a condemnation of capitalism and the West, but here they imagine it is about liberty and a time for rejoicing. And who are we to tell them otherwise?"

Wembley salutes Mandela

NEWS FOCUS
Steve Turner

UK bound: Mandela and his wife Winnie accept Wembley invitation

which is expected to be broadcast to more than 60 countries — include Simple Minds, Peter Dinklage, Tracy Chapman, Hugh Macaulay, Neil Young, and The Neville Brothers. Other acts will be announced in the next two weeks.

Industry rumours suggest that Bruce Springsteen, Madonna, Prince and Eurythmics are in discussion with the organisers. The producers Daniel Lanois and George Duke will each be recruiting and presenting a supergroup for the event.

Wembley Stadium will be 72,000. Television will transmit the concert to another 500 million. Mandela's agreement came earlier in the week, in a telephone call to Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, convenor of the International

Reception Committee and a long-standing campaigner against apartheid. Clearance was given by Alfred Nzo, secretary-general of the African National Congress.

Nelson Mandela's 70th Birthday Tribute, which took place at Wembley Stadium in June 1985, was a glittering affair which was seen by more people than Live Aid in 1985. It featured heavyweight names such as Whitney Houston, Simple Minds and Dire Straits, but also launched the career of a then-unknown, the black American folk artist Tracy Chapman. Mandela kept closely in touch with that event through his lawyer, and sent a personal message on the day. He has since been sent a video tape of the show.

What his personal views about rock music are, nobody knows. But he can only be encouraged by the obvious support of the massive audience for an art-form which is rooted in the music of Africa.

Twanging twiddly twisters

The Stranglers: 10

(Epic 468483 1)

Although they have perversely clung on to their brutish, hardly toilet-trained punk image, the Stranglers are now 40-year-old professionals making stylish, top-of-the-range pop records that are about as threatening as my pussy cats. 10 is their tenth album, and it is chock-full of polished bubble-gum-rockers like the hit single "96 Tears", that sound great on the radio but which lack depth when strung together at length.

"Let's Celebrate" is both a sentiment and a bouncy strut that would not sound out of place in the Kylie 'n' Jason portfolio were it not for dirty old Hugh Cornwell's repeated plea of "Let me get to taste your honey juice".

There is a smooth, jazz-noir feel to Sid Gould's trumpet solo in "Sweet Smell of Success", but it is the tiny Sixties organ sound of Dave Greenfield which predominantly colours a workmanlike production by Queen's former

ALBUMS
David Sinclair

Mary Coughlan: Irish chanteuse

studio mentor Roy Thomas Baker. A more establishment combination of talents you would be hard pressed to find.

Mary Coughlan: Uncertain Pleasures (East West WX 333/C)

Mary Coughlan is the brassy chanteuse from Co Galway who has been likened, rather fancifully, to Billie Holiday. Marian Montgomery would be closer to the mark on *Uncertain Pleasures* where she mixes a cocktail of pleasant show-time pop, spiked with a mild dash of blues, country and jazz. There is even a nifty burst of big band swing reggae guitar on a number written by Bob Geldof and Peter Biquette of the Boomtown Rats titled "The Little Death".

But Coughlan has little expressive range, and the emotional nuances of songs as varied as John Duban's Well-like waltz "Whiskey Didn't Kill the Pain" and the Jagger/Richards tale of domestic woe, "Mother's Little Helper" all tend to be ironed flat in the hands of her work-weary, Irishwoman persona.

Eleventh Dream Day: Best (Atlantic 7557-82053-1)

"We're a garage band/We come from garage land", sang Joe Strummer in 1977, but in truth no English group has captured the precise combination of inspiration, dedication and disorganization that a true American garage band like Eleventh Dream Day regard as routine.

A Chicago four-piece, brought up on the Midwest club and college radio circuit, their second album is a ragged, but sporadically impressive outing dominated by a rough, clanging, two-guitar sound. This is applied like a blowtorch to material which has clearly been influenced by Neil Young, among others.

Sometimes, as on "Michael Dime", the energy is chaotically undirected and the guitars flail around. But when a more considered lap-steel motif swoops with lazy grace between the lines of "Axle", or a chiming arpeggio introduces "Teenage Pin Queen" you could almost imagine another R.E.M. in the making.

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WEEKEND INFORMATION SERVICE

A short spring season

Disguised: Sandra Dugdale as the maid in *Die Fledermaus* in Belfast

The stalwart Opera Northern Ireland, who present a short September season every year and a schools programme, and also take piano-accompanied opera around Ulster whenever sponsorship allows them, have been able to expand to a new spring season, albeit a short one. The *Die Fledermaus*, restaged by Tim Coleman from Helmut Poltra's original 1987 idea for Welsh National Opera, will be conducted by David Parry and receive four performances tomorrow, Tuesday, Thursday and 10 in Frank Matcham's exquisite Grand Opera House opposite the renowned Crown Liquor Saloon in Belfast. The cast, as usual, will be made up of both local and international singers. Peter Coleman-Wright takes the part of Eisenstein, whose practical jokes on his best friend, Dr Falke, has made him the target of an elaborate plan of vengeance. Rosalinda, Eisenstein's wife, will be played by Susan Bullock; and the role of the maid, Adele, who finds herself disguised as a promiscuous young artist at Prince Orlofsky's party, will be taken by Sandra Dugdale. On Friday March 9, Angela Keeney will give a gala concert for the company, singing extracts from *Madama Butterfly*, *Il trovatore* and *The Pearl Fishery*, while the Ulster Orchestra, Grand Opera House, Belfast (0232 240111) 7.30-10.30pm, £2-10 (gala concert £5-18). Hilary Finch

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Review section on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
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FILMS

Also on national release
★ Advance booking possible

BLACK RAIN (15): Crime story directed by Ridley Scott about a hard-boiled New York cop (Michael Douglas) pursuing a Japanese gangster through Osaka (125 mins). Cannon Fullscreen (01-370 2636). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 11.00. Plaza (01-200 0200). Progs 12.15, 3.00, 5.45, 8.30.

BLAZE (15): Colourful Americana from writer-director Ron Shelton, with Paul Newman in commanding form as ageing Louisiana governor Earl Long, innocently in love with a stripper (newcomer Lolita Davidovich) (102 mins). Cannon Fullscreen (01-370 2636). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 11.00. Warner West End (01-439 0791). Progs 12.35, 3.10, 5.50, 8.25, 11.10.

CASUALTIES OF WAR (18): American atrocities in Vietnam, viewed thoughtfully by director Brian De Palma, with Michael J. Fox as the soldier standing apart from the brutal action of Sean Penn (114 mins). Cannon Fullscreen (01-370 2636). Progs 12.35, 3.10, 5.50, 8.25, 11.10.

DRIVING MISS DAISY (U): Sweet, endearing film of Alfred Urey's play about a retired Southern lady (Jessica Tandy) and her chauffeur (Morgan Freeman). Nominated for nine Oscars; directed by Bruce Beresford (90 mins). Warner West End (01-439 0791). Progs 1.50, 4.05, 6.25, 8.45, 11.10.

A DRY WHITE SEASON (16): Powerful spiritual thriller (from Andre Brink's novel), with Donald Sutherland and a mild schoolteacher whose conscience is finally stirred. Directed by Euzhan Palcy; with a juicy cameo from Marlon Brando (108 mins). Cannon West End (01-439 0791). Progs 2.00, 4.10, 6.20, 8.40.

FAMILY BUSINESS: Comedy-drama drawn upon a novel by Vincent Patrick, with Sean Connery and Dustin Hoffman as members of a family of crime (100 mins). Mollie Hill (01-727 8700). Progs 3.30, 6.00, 8.15. Odessa Kineplex (01-630 6644). Progs 12.40, 3.20, 6.00, 8.40, 11.15. Odessa Lakeside Cinema (01-630 6111). Progs 12.05, 2.45, 5.35, 8.25, 11.15. Odessa Lakeside Cinema (01-722 5905). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 11.00.

FIELD OF DREAMS (PG): Overtly over the top, with Kevin Costner as a farmer who hears a celestial voice to use the cornfield for a baseball pitch. Directed by Phil Alden Robinson (108 mins). Cannon Fullscreen (01-370 2636). Progs 1.50, 3.50, 6.15, 8.45, 11.15.

HONEY, I SHRUNK THE KIDS (U): The Disney studio's endearing, family-entertaining version of *The Incredible Shrinking Man*, with Rick Moranis as the luckless inventor who accidentally shrinks his children to minuscule size. Directed by Joe Johnston (102 mins). Odessa Kineplex (01-630 6644). Progs 12.45, 3.25, 6.05, 8.45, 11.15. Odessa West End (01-439 0791). Progs 1.00, 3.30, 6.10, 8.40, 11.10. Odessa Lakeside Cinema (01-722 5905). Progs 1.10, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30.

Jackets II, the first new play by Edward Bond (left) to be seen in London for several years, opens tonight at the Bush Theatre (see listing). The play is set in a riotous city where the Army, needing an excuse for martial law, engineers the sacrifice of one of its soldiers. The curious title relates to a scene where two mothers are shown the jacket of a dead son, an incident that recurs in Bond's matching Japanese play, *Jackets I*, which has yet to be seen in London.

Odessa Marble Arch (01-723 2011): Progs 12.30, 3.10, 5.50, 8.25. Cannon Lakeside (01-352 5086). 1.30, 3.45, 7.30, 9.40.

LAST EXIT TO BROOKLYN (18): Raw, powerful version of Hubert Selby Jr's once-controversial novel of Brooklyn life, from the director of *Christine F.* Ulrich Edel. With Stephen Lang, Jennifer Jason Leigh (102 mins). Cannon Fullscreen (01-370 2636). Progs 2.20, 5.45, 8.30.

MONKEY SHINES (18): Frenzied, unrepentant circus Director George A. Romero about a severely disabled man (Jason Beghe) and a monkey bearded up on human tissue (113 mins). Price Pictures (01-437 8181). Progs 1.05, 3.20, 5.50, 8.25, 11.15.

PARENTHOOD (12): Episodic heart-warmer from Ron Howard about the joys and sorrows of raising children. Each other: a large, eccentric dad (Steve Martin), Mary Steenburgen, Danny West, Jason Roberts (114 mins). Cannon Fullscreen (01-370 2636). Progs 2.10, 5.10, 8.05. Odessa Kineplex (01-630 6644). Progs 3.25, 6.35, 11.15. Odessa Lakeside Cinema (01-722 5905). Progs 2.10, 5.20, 8.35, 11.15. Warner West End (01-439 0791). Progs 12.35, 3.10, 5.50, 8.25, 11.10.

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OUT OF TOWN

HARROGATE: ★ Uncle Vanya: Jonathan Brown plays the title role in David Mamet's adaptation of Chekhov. Harrogate Theatre, Oxford Street (0423 552116). Tues-Sat 7.30pm, £3-25.25.

LANCASTER: ★ Bring Down the Sun: New Theatre Lancaster presents a 17th century murder cover-up with something similar today. Dates Theatre, Moors Lane (0524 65450). Tues-Sat 7.30pm, £3-25.25.

LIVERPOOL: ★ Toss of Money: Ayub-Khan's NT version of the Alswych farce in which a very complicated problems follow a scheme to grab an inheritance. Playhouse, Williamson Sq (051 708 8383). Mon-Thurs 7.30pm, Fri and Sat 8pm; mat Sat 4pm, £1-27.50.

MANCHESTER: ★ The Winter's Tale: Sean Baker in Philip Lloyd's directorial staging production; touring from Mar 19. Royal Exchange Theatre, St Ann's Square (061 833 8833). Mon-Thurs 7.30pm, Fri and Sat 8pm, mat Wed 2.30pm, Sat 4pm, £3.50-£18.

MISS SAIGON: ★ Great musical, with Jonathan Pryce, brilliantly staged. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, WC2 (01-836 6108). Tues: Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45-10.30pm, mat Wed and Sat 2.45pm; Fri and Sat 2.45pm, £2-22.50.

THE MINDERS: ★ New translation of Camus's 1944 play *Le Malin*, using the story of a son who returns home unrecognized to raise issues of responsibility, the authentic life and other timeless concerns. Gaiety Theatre, Prince Albert Public House, Finsbury Park, W11 (01-228 0700). Tues: Notting Hill Gate. 7.30pm, £5.

MOSCOW SHADOWS: ★ Barbara Lott and Josephine Tewson as two Moscow widows trading on the edge of the law, caught up in a murder case. New End Theatre, 27 New End, NW6 (01-743 0022). Tues: Hampstead. Tues-Sun 8pm, mat Sat 4.30pm. Tues-Thurs 8pm, Fri and Sat 8.50pm; Sat mat 2.50pm.

MY HEART'S A BUTTERFLY: ★ Frances Barber in Clare McIntyre's new play free to sort her life out on a Brighton holiday. Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Sq, SW1 (01-730 1745). Tues: Sloane Square. Mon-Sat 8pm, mat Sat 4pm, £4-21.2.

NOEL AND GERTIE: ★ Patricia Hodge and Simon Cadell sing, sing and dance in Stephen Mowbray's trip down Memory Lane. Comedy Theatre, Farnham St, London SW1 (01-830 2578). Tues: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat 8pm, mat Wed 2.45pm, mat Wed 3pm, Sat 8pm, £5.50-£16.

ALAN BROWN: ★ This pianist offers Beethoven's Sonata Op 33 "Waldstein".

CONCERTS

LITTON/PROTOPOLSKY: ★ The LSO is conducted by Andrew Litton in Beethoven's Symphony No 4 and Strauss's Don Juan and in Protopolsky's The Soldier in Protopolsky's Sinfonia Concertante for Cello and Orchestra. Royal Albert Hall, South Bank, London, SE1 (01-423 8800). 7.30-9.10pm, £4.50-£21.

BRUNNEN CONTINUED: ★ Gerhard Oppitz reaches the third of his four recitals of Brahms's piano music, playing the Paganini Variations Op 35, Op 10, Op 38, Klavierstücke Op 118 and 119. Wigmore Hall, 38 Wigmore St, London W1 (01-836 2141). 7.30pm, £4-27.

MYRTLE MARCH: ★ Half way through the series "Myrtle, Magic and Mystery" the London Bach Orchestra performs Carl's Trumpet Voluntary, Purcell's Trumpet Tune and Chaconne, Telemann's Trumpet Concerto, Mozart's Divertimento K 138 and Handel's "Overture and the Nightingale" Organ Concerto. Nicholas Kraemer conducts. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-423 8800). 7.45pm, £8-11.

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Peter Waymark

A high-contrast, black and white portrait of a young man, likely a member of the Black Panther Party. He is wearing a dark beret with a light-colored star on the front. He has a mustache and is looking slightly to the left. The image is grainy and has a high-contrast, almost stencil-like quality.

Black and white: Sali Keita has endured the stigma of albinism (BBC 9 African)

◼ Wandering through one of his Habitat shops in Walkie Talkie (Channel 4, 8.30pm), Sir Terence Conran declares that a tight fitting on offer is too expensive and unwittingly shows his dislike of a fabric design by dropping cigarette ash on it. Though the film was already in the can before this week's announcement that 12 Habitats are to close because of poor trading results, the episode has a nice irony. As it happens, Muriel Gray is not inclined to confront Sir Terence with tough questions about the difficulties of his business empire. It is not that sort of programme. She is more interested in the three millionaires, whether the millionaire can still be a socialist (the answer seems to be yes, no and maybe), and what he thinks will happen to him after death. Not to mention his colossal wealth, which he insists has not changed him. He sets out to prove the point by shunning it with Gray in a disgusting meal of hamburger, french fries and Coke.

2.40 Violin and Guitar
Jean-Jacques Kaeberlin
and Anthea Gifford
Glutteni (Grand poème)
Op 53; Colla (Duo)
(Six variations, Op 53)

5.00 ITN Morning News with Phil
Romeo. Ends at 6.00

GRANADA News 3:30-6:00 Young Doctors
10-5-49 Kick Off 6-69 Home and Away 6:30-7:00
Granada Tonight 10:30 Granada Up Front 11:30-12:00
1960 Alfred Hitchcock Presents: An Unlocked Window
10:00 Film: Women Hunter 3:30 Twilight Zone 4:00-
4:30 Night Beat

Earth 4.30 Happy Birthdays 4.35 Famous Five 5.00
Palino 5.25 Pals 6.00 Jo-Jazz 6.30 Home and Away
00 Nusch 7.00 Cursal 7.30 Coronation Street 8.00
and Son 8.50 Coach 9.30 Fitz-Snowdrop Festival
9.00 Lou Grant 11.35 Close

Full information on satellite TV programmes is available in the weekly magazine, **TV Guide**.

RADIO CHOICE

[illegible]

Craig Sheppard, piano);
Liszt (Mephisto Waltz;
Wagner (March for the
Balks) (Concerto for
Orchestra); Montreal
Symphony Orchestra under
Dutoit

2.15pm English Chamber
Orchestra under Howard
Dorset with David Hughes,
cello, performs Mozart
(Divertimento in D, K.205);
Soviet-Saxons (Cello Concerto
in A minor)

2.30pm News

2.45pm Chamber Music from
the 18th century: The pianist
Peter Hill performs Gibbons
(Fantasia); Bach (Prelude
and Fugue in F sharp
minor) (Piano); Beethoven
(Sonata in A flat, Op
110)

2.00pm Dennis Jones Symphonies:
Bach (Well-Tempered
Orchestra under Bryden
Thomson, led by Barry
Haskey, performs Borodin
(Song to the Flame); Igor
Jones (Symphony No. 8)

Chronicle of a Friendship, written and presented by Robert Barrows. With Edward Petherbridge as Tchalovsky and Jill Balcon as Desina Aron. (See 10.20) **10.20** *Chronicle of a Friendship* (see 10.20) **10.25** Samuel Beckett, 1906-89: All (see Choice) **11.00** 15.20 After School (see Choice) **11.00** *Sinnings* Still, read by Barry Brown (r) **1.20** *Composers of the Week: Scandinavian Season*, Greg Gifford is the host. "God's Son hath set me free; Haugstens" (r) **1.00** *News* **1.00** *Analysis of Pinterism: In the first of seven programmes, The Sixteen under Harry Christophers, perform André Schaeffli's setting of Psalm 6, with Thomas Wyatt's English verse translations read by Peter Barker* **2.15** *News*

McBryde whose book *The*
Smokers' Club was recently
published last week; and a
discussion on recent
research into the effects of
experience as passive
smokers


3.00 News; Classic Serial: *The*
Boys of the Olden Drood, by
Charles Dickens,
dramatized in five parts by
David Luck. Part 1: Orphans
(5) (see Choice)

4.00 News

4.05 The Lureland Waltz: Bob
Cooper relates the story of
developer Charles Neville,
whose dream of creating "a
city by the sea" in the New
Sussex after the First World
War, culminated in the
construction of Peasehaven
(5)

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 105.3k
London; Area FM-104.8; R.
50.2, Radio 3: 121.5k/127; 247m; F.
92.4-94.6, LBC: 1152k/1276m; 1.
55.8, Greater London Radio: 145.9

10.00 The World Tonight with
John Hume (s)
10.48 A Book at Bedtime: Sick
Heart River, by John
Buchan (final part) (c)
11.00 World Ending: Statistical
review of the world's news
with Bill Wastie, David Tate,
Sue Grace and John
Beddley (s)
11.38 The Financial Week
presented by Vincent
Dobry (s)
11.45 Today in Parliament
12.00-12.30 News, incl 12.30
News, 12.33 Shipping
Forecast
FM as LW except:
11.00am-12.00 For Schools (s)
12.00-12.30 For Schools (s)
2.00-3.00 For Schools (s) 5.50-
5.58 PM (cont) 12.30-1.10am
Night School (s)



Tribute: to the late Samuel Beckett (R3, 9.05/10.20pm)

● Radio 3's highly concentrated (2 1/2 hours) tribute to the late Samuel Beckett begins with the 1957 production of *All That Fall* (9.05pm), with its cast of great (and, mainly, late) Irish players, and includes *After Beckett* (10.20pm), in which a equally formidable roster of theatre formidables (Peters Hackett and Brook, Harold Pinter, and Billie Whitelaw, etc.) pay their

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TEMPUS

Barclays banks best books of sector

Barclays Bank has had its cake and eaten it. Not only has it virtually eradicated its Third World debt problem with a £983 million provision, but the strength of its underlying business has allowed it to report the highest profit and dividend growth among its competitors and still strengthen its capital base.

The bank's figures were strong enough to be treated with suspicion. The rise in pre-provision profits was 20 per cent, to £1.68 billion, five times more than its nearest rival. After provisions, Barclays' pre-tax profits may have halved to £692 million, but it was still able to transfer £140 million to reserves.

This leaves the bank with a comfortable 70 per cent cover against its Less Developed Country debts of £1.75 billion, and 41 per cent against developed country debt, principally South Africa. Like National Westminster, the bank is selling that debt as fast as it can find buyers. That way it avoids any lingering interest collection problems or sticky negotiations with the Inland Revenue about tax relief.

The bank also suffered knocks. There was a £37 million provision against swaps losses, and the treasury lost an estimated £22 million gambling that interest rates would fall. Unlike the competition, Barclays more than made up for it with tight cost

control. The cost to income ratio bucked inflationary pressures and fell from 66.4 per cent to 64 per cent.

The only cloud hanging over the figures was a 42 per cent rise in non-LDC provisions to £414 million — a world away from the 190 per cent hike at Lloyds last week. The worry was that Barclays has underprovided and will suffer a leap in write-off this year. The bank, however, insists it has provided fully. If so, it can thank its three-year-old network of risk managers for maintaining the quality of the loan book, and for a thrifty lending policy which caused total assets to inch up less than 1 per cent in the second half. Time will tell.

At 579p, Barclays' shares are still on a prospective p/e ratio of less than 6. The bank has proved its AAA credit rating, and looks inexpensive.

Royal Insurance

Royal Insurance has had to rely more on its fast-rising unrealized investment gains than rivals CIU and GA to match their dividend growth with a 13.3 per cent rise. Earnings of 18.6p per share fell £33 million short of the 25.5p dividend.

This has helped sustain the share price — down just 10p to



Crucial year: Ian Rushton, chief executive of Royal Insurance, and Richard Gamble, group financial director, yesterday

485p — after a poor fourth quarter in which virtually no profit was earned. Even so, the shares sell at a 7 per cent yield, as high for the sector as the price to earnings ratio of 26.

The 44 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £126 million means that rising life profits, including the US acquisition Maccabees, contributed al-

most half. But it is crucial for Royal to stage some sort of profit recovery this year.

Premium rates, particularly on the corporate side, are not expected to recover more than is needed to pay higher reinsurance premiums. Investment income should do well again. But quick recovery would need to come from bet-

ter claims experience and a cut in the £26 million losses on Royal's estate agency chain.

Since the crude underwriting loss is about 11 per cent of premiums, there is plenty of scope. That is mostly in the United States, since Canadian results have been good and Britain at least average. Hurricane Hugo alone cost about £35 million net (including the Caribbean) and the San Francisco earthquake added to the gloom. The gales and floods so far this year in Britain, which may cost £50 million more than the winter average, have hardly made a good start, so there will be considerable scepticism until Royal can actually demonstrate that things are getting better.

Meanwhile, the asset value of 546p per share, including "embedded" value of existing life business, is an important prop, and this could be lifted to 673p on a going-concern valuation of the life companies.

ASW Holdings

ASW Holdings could be expected to see the chill winds of recession blow over it as 1990 rolls on given its operations are steel-related and UK operations account for 74 per cent of turnover.

However, there are three mitigating, and positive, aspects which should see ASW safely through any storm.

Firstly, ASW has steadily increased its foothold in Europe from 12 per cent of sales three years ago to a current 22.4 per cent — and Europe is a £6 billion a year market in which more opportunities could be seized.

Secondly, operating margins have risen from 8.7 per cent to 9.3 per cent over the past year, and with further efficiencies planned, margins could well reach 10 per cent this year.

Thirdly, ASW holds a cash bundle of £16.6 million — having turned round a £6.2 million net debt a year ago — on which reasonable interest balances should be earned this year, and which is a useful kitty for deals.

Results for the year to end-December show a pre-tax profit of £40.4 million (pro forma £31.6 million) on sales that rose to £451.1 million (£392.6 million). The year's dividend is 11p, covered 2.78 times, against one special payment of 5p a share in 1988.

The rate of profits growth this year may not be as dramatic as that just seen, but ASW is determined to drive its cost curve further down, which should help compensate for any flattening in its markets. Possible pre-tax profits of £43 million this year put the shares at 256p on a prospective rating of 7.9. Helped by the cash balances, they are worth holding.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Saudis take control of Hartwell convertibles

The offer for the convertible share capital of Hartwell, the Oxford motor dealer under £172 million takeover threat from the Jameel Group of Saudi Arabia, has gone unconditional after purchases by the bidder in the market. When Jameel announced its offer at the start of the year it held almost 32 per cent of the convertibles. It now speaks for more than 53 per cent, along with about 33 per cent of the ordinary shares. The offer closes on March 12.

Hartwell has launched its final defence document, with a claim that the offer undervalues the company as the Saudis have been unable to offer a full price because of the potential loss of franchises. Hartwell claims that Jaguar, BMW and Mercedes — representing ten franchises — have all said they will not agree to a transfer to Jameel, while other big franchises are also in jeopardy.

Swedes reject fraud appeal

A Swedish appeal court yesterday rejected an appeal by the founder of biotechnology firm Fermenta against his conviction for fraud and insider trading, and instead increased his five-year sentence by one year. Keesik el-Sayed was found guilty last July by a district court on 14 counts, including Sweden's first charges of insider trading. El-Sayed said he would appeal to the Supreme Court.

Admiral sails ahead by 65%

Admiral Computing Group, the software consultant, has boosted pre-tax profits by 65 per cent to £2.65 million on turnover up 42 per cent to £15.97 million for the year to end-December. Earnings per share climbed 76 per cent to 16.2p. Directors have recommended a final dividend of 2.4p, making a total for the year of 3.5p (2.55p). Mr Clay Broadbent, chairman, said: "Our order book for 1990 is healthy."

'Early' £9m for MTM

MTM, the specialist chemical intermediates maker, has reinforced its £12 million share-swap bid for Chemox by bringing forward the announcement of its 1989 figures by more than a month. These showed pre-tax profits up 41 per cent at £9.3 million on sales 31 per cent ahead at £55.6 million from continuing businesses. The figures were boosted by the paper of purchase of JD Campbell and Lancaster Synthetics, makers of agricultural and organic chemicals.

MTM's earnings per share rose 17 per cent to 17p. A final dividend of 2.8p, up 0.4p, leaves the total at 4.2p, up a fifth. The shares rose 6p to 215p, leaving the 1.86-for-1 share exchange terms for Chemox worth 400p, equal to the cash alternative. Chemox's defence document is expected today.

GKN in £7m US purchase

GKN, the engineering, industrial services and supplies group, has extended its North American equipment rental business with the purchase of H&H Rentals for £7.1 million. Of that, £3.8 million is payable immediately and £1.9 million on finalization of the company's audited accounts, with £1.4 million deferred until February 1992. H&H had sales of almost £5 million in the year to end-June.

Freeman up 24% to £2.4m

Freeman Group, the USM-quoted distributor of building products, has increased its 1989 pre-tax profits by 24 per cent to £2.4 million on turnover up 60 per cent. The company does not, however, expect the UK construction market to be as buoyant in the early 1990s. Earnings per share climbed from 22.7p to 26.7p, while a final dividend of 5.35p (4.5p) makes a total of 8.1p for the year, compared to 6.75p last time.

MAI buys US broker

MAI, the financial services to advertising group, has acquired Tins & Donnelly, a New York broker, for \$9.15 million (£5.4 million), through its Garvin Gay Butler Corp subsidiary. Tins & Donnelly, a leading New York municipal bond broker, will absorb Garvin's existing municipal bond broking business, becoming one of the industry's largest brokers in the US.

Mr Charles Gregson, chief executive of MAI's money and securities broking division, said that the new company will be well placed to benefit from the anticipated growth in the municipal bond market.

'Painful sacrifices' to remedy trade deficit

By Our Economics Staff

Reducing last year's £20 billion current account deficit to a level the markets consider sustainable will mean "painful sacrifices" by industry and consumers in order to release resources needed to boost exports, according to Mr David Kern, National Westminster Bank's chief economist.

In the latest edition of NatWest's *Economic and Financial Outlook*, he says that

lowering the external deficit from 4 per cent of gross domestic product last year to less than 2 per cent next year will mean that domestic spending will have to increase more slowly than domestic output.

He foresees the "huge scale" of the adjustment requiring continuous sacrifices, in terms of output not available for domestic use, of about half a per cent of GDP yearly until 1995.

Peek buys US division for \$4.5m

By Our City Staff

Peek, the international electronics and technology company, is buying StreeterAmet, the traffic data systems division of Howe Richardson of the United States, for \$4.5 million cash. StreeterAmet, Peek's fifth traffic-related acquisition, produces systems used in traffic monitoring control and complements similar Peek activities in Britain. The division had sales of \$5 million in 1989.

Peek also announced yesterday that Mr Ian McCue, a director of the company for the past three years, had resigned to pursue private interests.

Tokyo after the roller coaster ride

Family Money tomorrow examines the sharp falls in Tokyo this week and looks at how investors have fared. There are also some thoughts

THE TIMES
ON SATURDAY
IN COLOUR

on foreign currency mortgages, and we take the lid off the hidden side of home contents insurance.

The pros and cons of unit trusts are highlighted in a four-page special report this weekend. We look at some of the top performers, and see how married women can gain in the run-up to independent retirement.

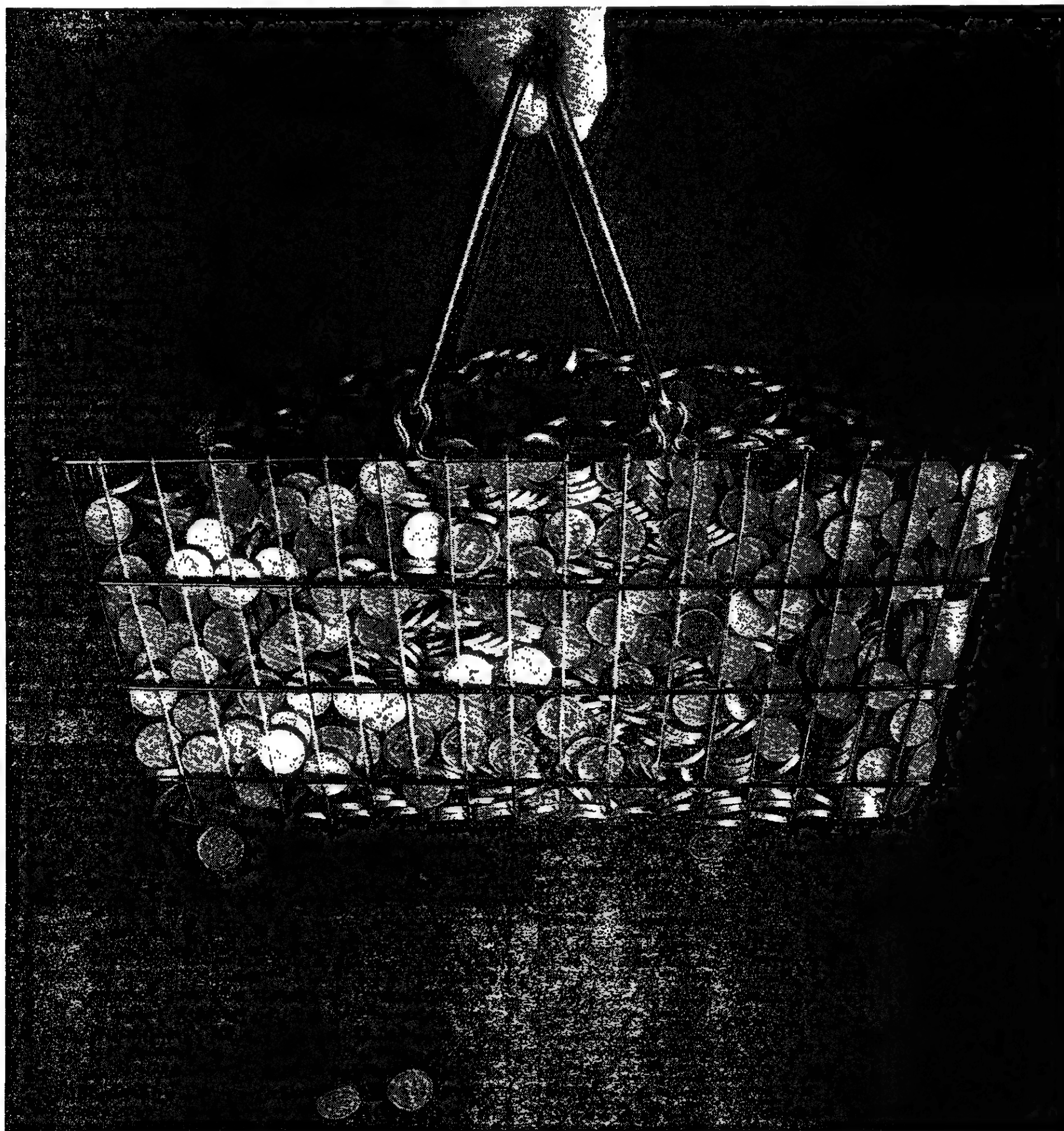
RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES		Oxford Weekly	
ABN Leisure (125p)	128	Plasma Mining	85
Abnax Ltd (100p)	84	Polymer	85
Analysis Hedge	20	Prospect (10p)	8
Anglo Park	78	Sagin Co (130p)	178 +1
Anglo Scan Inv Tr	85	Sutton Weber	10
Beta Global Energy (100p)	86	TR High Inc (520p)	126
Cable Int	220	Wiltshire Brew (70p)	72
Carroll	300		
Charm Radio (210p)	215		
Chyford	141		
Essex Energy Trust	382 -2		
Eurocom	120		
First Frio (50p)	37 -5		
Gardiner Energy Pacific	55 -1		
Goldmine Res	133		
Growth Dev (100p)	104		
Lon & New York (100p)	89		
Malayasia Energy	686 +5		
Midlands Gr (75p)	183 -5		
Midland Radio	98 -3		
Norfolk	100p		

(Issue price in brackets)

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings February 18 Last Dealings March 2 Last Dealings For Settlement March 4
Call options were taken out on: 10/80 GT Cote Growth Fund, West, Courtwell, Laurus Inv, T. Cowie, Scottish & Newcastle, London & Manchester, Kwik-Fit Holdings, Hanson Wts.



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Markheath makes £63m hostile bid for Camford

By Jeremy Andrews
Markheath Securities, the British property vehicle of Mr John Spalvin, the Australian entrepreneur, has launched a £63.8 million hostile offer for Camford Engineering, the car component maker.

The bid was widely expected as Markheath has a 29.9 per cent stake in Camford, but Camford shares still shot up 64p to 308p, 3p ahead of the all-cash offer.

Mr Paul Bobroff, Markheath's managing director, denied the bid was solely about Camford's property — the company has a £30 million vacant site at Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

He said he was concerned that Camford was over-dependent on British car makers, and Markheath had sought board representation in order to protect its interests.

This approach had been rebuffed. "In those circumstances," he said, "the proper course of action is to make a cash offer at a generous price, which is what we have done."

The 305p terms represent a 25 per cent premium over Camford's price beforehand and are equivalent to 16 times its earnings per share of 18.8p in the year to September.

Mr Brian Cox, Camford's chairman, said the offer was inappropriate and inadequate and the board was advising shareholders to reject it. He

dismissed the criticism that Camford was not geared up for the opportunities of the single European market.

He said: "Our major customers are Ford and General Motors who have been arranging their component supplies on a European basis for quite a few years."

He added the prospects for British component manufacturers had been improved by the weakening of sterling against the mark and the arrival of Japanese car builders.

Camford, which makes heavy pressings such as cross members and axles, had a better record than some others in the car industry, Mr Cox said. When he arrived from Barclays Merchant Bank in 1982, the shares stood at 7p and the sharp rise since reflected Camford's record of annual earnings growth of 30 per cent, sustained subsequently.

Markheath opposed Camford's plans to sell the Stevenage site and last month raised £45.4 million via a placing and open offer which doubled its share capital. Mr Spalvin's Adelaide Steamship maintained its 49.9 per cent stake in the company and the balance was conditionally placed with Howard Smith, an Australian company linked to Adsteam. As a result, Adsteam has a direct and indirect stake of 70.3 per cent in Markheath.



Protecting interests: Paul Bobroff of Markheath yesterday

Profit jump at Indmar

Fife Indmar, the Scottish engineering group, more than doubled pre-tax profits from £509,000 to £1.21 million in 1989. The dividend is 4.13p (3.75p). Turnover rose from £14.9 million to £23.1 million and earnings per share from 5.15p to 9.12p.

Macro 4 rise

Pre-tax profits at Macro 4 increased by 18.1 per cent to £3.28 million in the six months to end-December. Turnover climbed 18.2 per cent to £6.94 million. The interim dividend is boosted to 3.7p (1.9p). Earnings per share rose 16.5 per cent to 9.2p.

Polypipe ahead

Polypipe's pre-tax profits rose 34.4 per cent to £5.08 million in the six months to end-December on sales up 14.6 per cent to £33.7 million. The interim dividend rises 20 per cent to 1.1p on earnings per share up 22 per cent to 4.92p.

Whitbread sale

Whitbread has sold its 27 public houses in Scotland to Allen Partnership of Sussex for £9.25 million in cash.

BP reorganizes

A reorganization will result in a staff saving of about 10 per cent in BP Singapore.

Lazard Brothers

In the first edition of *The Times* yesterday, evidence submitted to the Energy Select Committee on the privatization of the electricity industry by the merchant bank Lazard Brothers, the financial adviser to the Central Electricity Generating Board and to National Power, was wrongly attributed to Kleinwort Benson, the financial adviser to the Government.

Takare payout up 170% after profits are doubled

By Melinda Wittstock

Takare, the fast-growing nursing home specialist which joined the full list last May after only one year on the Third Market, has more than doubled its profits for 1989.

It reported a 107 per cent pre-tax profit rise to £2.15 million on turnover up 44.4 per cent to £8.45 million. Eps climbed 59 per cent to 18.1p.

Shareholders have been rewarded by a 170 per cent rise in the total dividend to 2.7p. Mr Keith Bradshaw, the chairman, said the rate of dividend growth is unlikely to be as fast, given the need to reinvest profits for further expansion.

Takare, which has more than 1,000 beds in operation,

expects to have another 700 by the year-end and 4,000 by the end of 1991.

The company still has £3 million cash from the £12.6 million raised at the time of its full-list debut. It also may draw additional funds from a long-term debt facility. Mr Bradshaw said there were no plans for a rights issue.

Takare has also won contracts with five more health authorities for 570 beds at six sites. Mr Bradshaw said Takare is geared to taking any patient who is clinically dependent, whether referred privately or through the NHS or DSS.

For the moment, Takare is

limiting its expansion to Britain, where 60 per cent of the 1.2 million people expected to be over the age of 85 in the year 2000 will be physically or mentally infirm. Another 8.8 million will be over 65.

Mr Bradshaw said: "If you set this against an existing continuing-care provision of 160,000 beds in both the private and public sector, it is clear that an enormous shortfall exists which can only get worse as the decade progresses and which cannot be answered by the [NHS reform] White Paper's general wish to direct more resources towards domiciliary care."

Royal stands by for £85m weather costs

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Royal Insurance expects losses due to bad weather in Britain so far this year to cost about £85 million, about £50 million more than it would expect to pay in times of ice and snow.

Claims for the January storms have reached 165,000 — as many as the total for the 1987 hurricane — at a gross cost of £150 million, but the net cost comes down to £35 million due to reinsurance.

But Royal is estimating for a possible further maximum £35 million for the recent storms and floods, although Mr Ian Rushton, the chief executive, said it was too early to tell if this would be needed. High claims for subsidence

in Britain from the dry summer contrived to give Royal a poor, almost profitless, fourth quarter of 1989, adding to the £35 million cost of Hurricane Hugo in the US, and earthquakes in San Francisco and New South Wales.

Group profits tumbled from £223 million to £126 million, despite a 25 per cent rise in investment income. Profits were hit after a £26 million loss (£7 million profit) for Royal's estate agency business, which has been cut from a peak of 831 branches to 760. Royal has raised its dividend 13.3 per cent to 25.5p for the year, despite eps falling from 32.1p to 18.6p.

Tempus, page 24

Convertible holders in Hanson rush

Holders of Hanson convertible loan and preference stock have rushed to convert their holdings into ordinary shares.

Hanson says it has received a 92.46 per cent conversion rate from holders of the convertible loan stock and a 97.05 per cent conversion from holders of the preference issue. Hanson has applied to list an additional 839.88 million of its shares on the Stock Exchange. This will take the group's total issued capital to 4.78 billion shares.

The high level of acceptances followed Hanson's forecast of the likely dividend it would pay this year. The mechanics of the conversion give Hanson a pre-tax profit "buffer" of about £97.6 million.

Relly to retire as chairman of Anglo

By Colin Campbell
Mining Correspondent

Mr Gavin Relly, for the past seven years chairman of Anglo American Corporation — the South African gold and diamond empire founded by the Oppenheims in 1917 — is to step down as Anglo's chairman on March 31.

The change at South Africa's wealthiest group comes at a time of business and political uncertainty in the wake of Mr Nelson Mandela's release. ANC calls for nationalization and proposed apartheid reforms.

The Anglo and De Beers groups are potentially most at risk from African National Congress threats to nationalize banks and parts of the South African mining industry.

Mr Relly, aged 64, will be succeeded as Anglo's chairman by Mr Julian Ogilvie Thompson, aged 56, and currently a deputy chairman of Anglo and chairman of sister group De Beers. His appointment reunites the posts of chairman of Anglo and De Beers in one person.

In the history of Anglo American there have only been three chairmen — two of whom were Oppenheims — and traditionally the chairman of Anglo has also been the chairman of De Beers.

The next few years are also likely to see the radical black labour movements increasing their power, particularly the National Union of Mine-workers, which in 1987 disrupted Anglo's gold mining operations in a month-long wages dispute.

Against the background of reiterated ANC nationalization calls, Mr Relly was last week the first South African businessman to meet the released Mr Mandela.

The appointment of Mr Ogilvie Thompson — long regarded as heir apparent to the chair at Anglo — is not without added significance given his chairmanship of De Beers.

In Namibia, De Beers is likely to come under increasing pressure to give up a slice of its equity in the territory's diamond mining operations. Mr Relly remains a director of Anglo. He is also a director of De Beers and a director of Minorco. He was asked by Anglo "to spend more time on international interests which take me overseas more often."

Mr Relly has also been chairman of the executive committee of Anglo for the past 13 years, from which position he also retires.

COMMENT David Brewerton

Profit reports promise to leave blood on floor

Those City scribbles with some service behind them are becoming increasingly nervous of the oncoming company reporting season, which promises to leave blood on the floor on a scale not seen for a decade. One by one the profits warnings from former high fliers have been wearing a hole in the confidence of the market in the same way as water can erode stone. But while many sector analysts are still seeing these as a number of isolated incidents, the strategists are beginning to see a trend — and they do not like what they see.

This morning Robert Fleming Securities, hardly a market leader but a respectable enough house for all that, puts numbers to the trends. They will do nothing to encourage a market already softened by high interest rates and political uncertainty. Profit growth expectations for the coming reporting season covering 1989, and for 1990, have been left behind by the disappointing outlook for economic growth in Britain and the US. Where Flemings was expecting between 12 and 14 per cent rises for 1989 and up to 8 per cent for 1990, the broker has brought these back to 10 per cent for 1989 and zero in 1990.

There has been increasing disagreement in a number of broking and investment houses between the "top down" investment strategists and the "bottom up" sector and company analysts. On the whole, the latter have been the more positive, basing their optimism on reports

and contact they have with companies. The former, driven more by macro-economic indicators, have been more cautious about the possibility of recession, although confused by a succession of conflicting signals.

Now, however, we see the two schools converging, as the companies realize that somewhere between August 1989 and February 1990 business lost momentum. This bears out an early warning from Goldman Sachs last October that there appeared to be an alarming and involuntary increase in stockbuilding taking place, which might require a 4 per cent reduction in manufacturing to correct. Flemings says in its note today that in Britain many firms have been forced to carry uncomfortably high inventories at year end. "Forebodings about 1990 performance, which we expect to include a 10 per cent drop in domestic trading profits, should be heeded," Flemings advises.

The question of how those indicators should be heeded by investors is much more difficult to assess. My own view is that most of the poor trading outlook has already been built into the current level of the UK market, and that there is a relatively limited downside to current levels. But until the strategists and the analysts can both peer across the valley to the green hills on the other side, which may not be visible until the latter part of this year, the market will go nowhere.

The Saatchi brothers grim

So-called "crisis meetings" do not normally prompt a sharp hike in the share price, so we must assume that the talks with senior managers around the world going on at Saatchi & Saatchi's Berkeley Square offices yesterday were indeed merely in the normal run of business.

The 12p gain to 153p on the stock market, therefore, is likely to be the first recognition of the work being undertaken by the new chief executive, Robert Louis-Dreyfus, ahead of any formal announcement.

The Saatchi brothers have never been keen on too much outside control, so it is a measure of just how chastening the past few months have been for them even to consider the appointment of two non-executive directors, apparently after strong pressure from the redoubtable Mr Louis-Dreyfus.

Such appointments cannot come too soon — the dog days of the Saatchi empire represent just the sort of situation where outside advice is most badly needed, featuring overreaching ambition and a lack of financial discipline.

Only gamblers should approach the ordinary shares with anything much shorter than a barge-pole, although the Euroconvertibles, where the 29 per cent

yield now apparently pre-supposes a total collapse of the group by the first put date in 1993, could be worth a punt. The annual meeting is on March 13. As part of the new order, perhaps both the brothers might even attend.

A point of interest

New ground is hardly broken by the guidelines set out by the Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies in the way in which auditors deal with fraud. The booklet establishes the legal position, and this guidance is long overdue. In particular, it should help resolve for auditors the conflicts of interest they have frequently felt, because it frees them from the duty of confidentiality where fraud and the public interest arise.

But if any shareholders think that auditors are suddenly going to turn into financial sleuths, chasing up every tiny area of doubt to catch even the smallest hand in the till, they have another thing coming. The audit is still intended to see whether the accounts are fair; whether stock losses occurred because the roof leaked or because they left the plant in the back of the chairman's Daimler is still, sadly, unlikely to interest them.

Cohen finds other fish to fry

The last former partner of Simon & Coates, the broker, has finally left the firm — these days part of the huge US banking concern Chase Manhattan. David Cohen, once among its top three partners — along with senior partner Mike Prag (now responsible for investor relations at TI Group) and finance partner Doug Wright — finally escaped three weeks ago and has now resurfaced at Robert Fleming Securities, as director of corporate broking. "I had the distinction of being effectively the last one out — the one who had to turn out the lights. I've just been shark-fishing off the coast of Cuba for a week and I think that helped get all the frustrations caused by Chase out of my system," says Cohen, "especially when I caught my shark." Most of his erstwhile Simon & Coates colleagues left when Chase pulled out of UK equities in January last year. "I was shunted into the investment banking side and it's taken me until now to negotiate my way out," Cohen added. At least half a dozen of his former colleagues are at Flemings and Cohen explains that his job there will be "to act as an air-lock between corporate broking and corporate finance, liaising between the broking arm and the merchant bank."

● Sign in the downstairs window of a hotel in Ballycastle, Ulster: "Teas." Another sign in the first-floor window of the same hotel: "High teas."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Inside information

Two City journalists are being accused of trading on inside knowledge after confirmation last yesterday that Mick Smith, industrial editor at *The Guardian*, was to become the new City Editor at *The Evening Standard*. He will replace Anthony Hilton who was, at the end of last year, made managing director of the group. But another City hack,

who had been running an actively-traded book on his likely successor, tells me that Smith's name only entered the race on Wednesday evening, after two journalists placed bets at hastily assessed odds of 5-1. "I'd never heard of him and they made £125 between them," says the bookie, who is himself now £70 richer. "But I quickly cottoned on."

No smoking

With the US Government's ban on smoking on almost all internal airline flights now in force — and likely to set a precedent throughout the world — an American anti-

tobacco lobby has published tips for nicotine-addicted businessmen, or anyone else who regularly takes long flights. Studies show that the craving is at its worst from noon to 10pm and, therefore, efforts should be made to fly in the morning. Take something to chew — gum, fruit, popcorn, sunflower seeds or carrot sticks are all suggested. Sugar and spicy foods should be avoided, since they can trigger the need to smoke, as can caffeine and alcohol. If there is any time left over, after all that eating, the lobbyists say the hands must be kept busy. "Knit, do puzzles or balance the cheque book. Listen to music. Keep your hands and mind busy," they say. "Stretch, flex or take walks up and down the aisle." And if, by then, you're not a completely neurotic wreck, they contradict themselves entirely by saying: "If possible take a nap."



"It's the collapsed greenhouse effect."

Slimline Banks

John Banks, chairman of advertising agency Young and Rubicam, was on a starvation diet last night. Something of a fitness fanatic — a year ago he opened up a staff health food restaurant, Giovanni's, in Young and Rubicam's Camden headquarters, as well as a gymnasium run by ex-Royal Navy PT instructor Mike Large — Banks reveals that he has had a bet with an old friend that he would lose some 20lb or so before his next skiing holiday. "The weigh-in is in Geneva tomorrow morning and, even though I've been running three miles every day, I've still got two pounds to go," he laments. "There's a lot of money riding on it. If I'm just two pounds over the target it will cost me £100." Banks says that he installed the gym and restaurant because he wanted "to improve the quality of life for people here," and already 345 of his 600 staff who are based in London are members of the gymnasium. "It's full between seven and nine in the mornings, at lunchtimes and in the evening," he adds, with a certain understandable satisfaction.

● Police in Zurich, one of the world's wealthiest cities, are now under orders to confiscate the takings of people they catch begging in the smart shopping mall at the foot of the elegant Bahnhofstrasse. Not only will their money be taken away, but unless they remove their sleeping bags and cardboard boxes, these too will be ripped up by the police.

Carol Leonard

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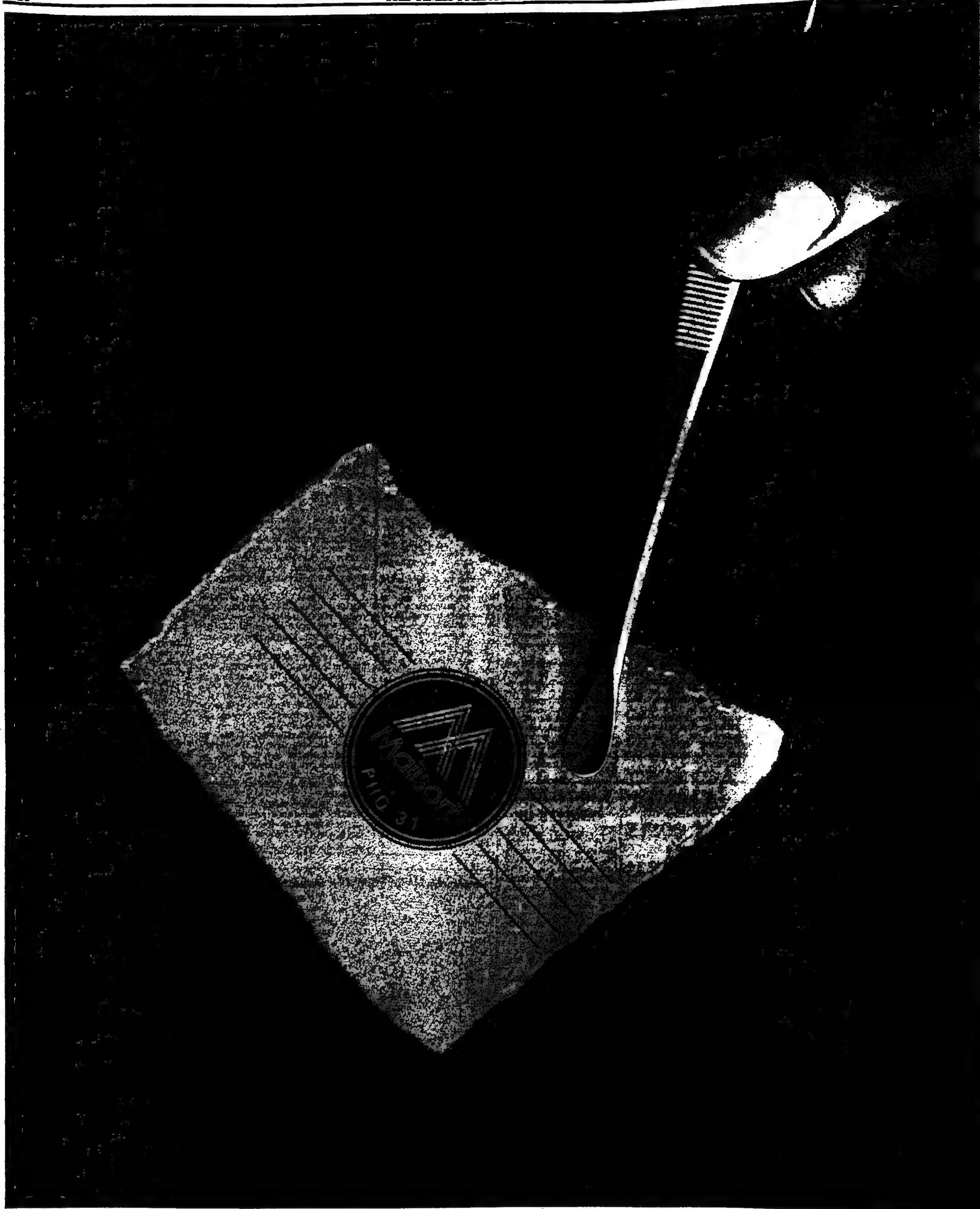
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Mailsort



Laporte to buy £24m subsidiary from Brent

By Jeremy Andrews

Brent Chemicals is selling its Reddish Savilles brewing and cleaning chemicals business to Laporte for £24 million. Because of its size, the deal needs the approval of Brent's shareholders and the company is forecasting a 12 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £12.6 million for the year to December, leaving earnings per share unchanged at 12.5p.

Growth at Reddish Savilles has slowed in recent years with profits of £2.5 million in 1989 unchanged from 1986. Sales rose by only £1.3 million to £10.5 million in that period.

The price reflects a substantial amount of goodwill, as Reddish Savilles' net assets were only £3.8 million in December.

However, Laporte pointed out that its margin on sales had been consistently above 22 per cent in the past four years.

Brent wants to reinvest the proceeds of the disposal in its faster-growing activities of electronic chemicals, pre-press services and printing inks.

The company is forecasting a 0.65p rise in its final dividend to 5.4p, leaving the total 13 pence up to 6.8p. The shares rose by 13p to 140p, capitalizing the ordinary equity at £75 million. Laporte shares were unchanged at 493p.

Quality, an exclusive name and protected business structure the spring-board for group's strength

Hermès delivers message of sheer luxury

By Gillian Bowditch

Hermès is the luxury goods group with a difference. Unlike Christian Dior and Pierre Cardin, it has not licensed, and consequently debased, its brand name. Unlike Gucci, the Hermès family has not lost control of the business through open warfare, and unlike at Moët-Hennessy Louis Vuitton, there is no obvious power struggle.

This has meant that, at a time when quality brands are commanding premium prices, Hermès has emerged as the company whose products exclude pure, unadulterated luxury. Profits, although a closely guarded secret, almost certainly match.

The Hermès strategy is as clear as the crystal manufactured by Cristalleries de Saint-Louis, its latest acquisition. Under M Jean-Louis Dumas, the founder's grandson, the business has expanded, diversified and been modernized but the old-fashioned principle of jealousy guarding the brand name and maintaining product quality has, if anything, been strengthened.

The group has grown five-fold in the past five years and sales last year were Fr2.5 billion (£250 million). Speculation has it that the company's profit margin is increasing faster than its sales. Hermès has 250 outlets worldwide, 40 of which it owns

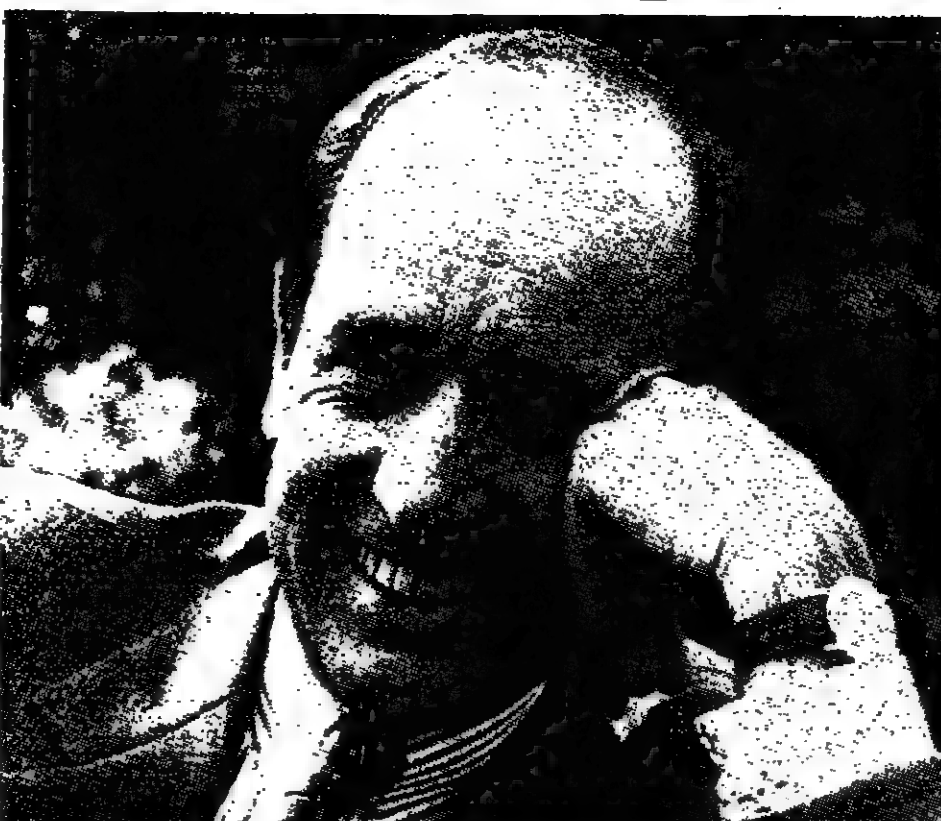
outright, including London, New York, Beverly Hills, Tokyo, Milan and Hong Kong. The group thinks nothing of spending Fr5 million to fit out a new shop.

For all that, Hermès is not without its eccentricities. The company is housed in five buildings on the corner of Faubourg Saint-Honoré and Rue Boissy d'Anglas, in what must be one of the most expensive sites in Paris. Here, on top of the shop, the leather manufacturing is carried out by 240 craftsmen who sit at workbenches and make all the products by hand — three-and-a-half hours to make a suitcase handle; up to 53 hours to make a saddle, the original Hermès business.

The premises are bursting at the seams. A tiny lift which holds only two people carries people between floors, where organized chaos reigns.

In the middle of it all is the Hermès "museum", the original office of Emile Hermès who founded the business in 1837. The "museum", the size of several workshops, has an astonishing collection of antiques, all relating to Hermès or to equestrian pursuits.

Here you can trip over the gold travelling toilet box of the emperor of Brazil, Napoleon III's shaving set, or the riding whip of the Empress Eugénie, complete with its tiny parasol



Winning mixture: Jean-Louis Dumas runs a modern business on old-fashioned principles

half-way up to shade her hand from the sun.

It is not just the combination of leather workshops and museum, piled on top of the shop, or the unusual combination of retailer and manufacturer that makes Hermès different. Which other company would be proud of the

waiting list for its products? New customers ordering a pair of John Lobb hand-made leather shoes wait six months and there is a nine-month waiting list for the Kelly bag — "like a bébé," beams the immaculately-dressed young Frenchman in the Paris shop.

The comparison of the Her-

mes products with babies may sound corny but it is one commonly used by the Hermès staff. It takes five years to train a Hermès leatherworker — five years, that is, before he has "la main à Hermès." Then, he will take about 19 hours to make the perfect white ostrich leather suitcase which will

retail in the shop at about £2,000.

The company makes up to 350 saddles a year and about 1,000 Kelly bags are sold each year in the Paris shop. About 1.5 million of the famous scarves are sold annually, with 12 new designs launched in two collections each year. The Faubourg boutique sells a scarf, retailing at £120, every 15 seconds. The company sells 1.2 million silk ties (priced at £55) a year world-wide.

Unlike most luxury goods groups, Hermès produces almost all the products which bear its name itself. This is all the more extraordinary because the group works in so many different materials. M Dumas said: "Every third party who comes between the user and the manufacturer must integrate with the other or be eliminated."

The strategy makes it more difficult for others to produce cheap imitations, according to Mme Flavie Chaillet, Hermès spokeswoman. "Unlike other groups, we do not plaster our product with initials. It is not so easy to copy something which is hand-made," she said.

The one thing even more jealously guarded than the Hermès name is the structure of the company. More than 90 per cent of the company is in the hands of the 17 grand-children of Emile Hermès, many of whom work in the

business. But M Dumas, perhaps because of what has happened at Gucci and aware that the cohesion may not carry through to the next generation, has changed the structure in order to keep out unwanted shareholders.

He has turned it into a limited partnership, under the control of the family, which cannot be divested of its power except by a 75 per cent vote by the shareholders at a special meeting. Since the family are the shareholders, the security is virtually total.

"I fight to keep the ownership of the capital of this business in the family and to preserve its culture," M Dumas has said.

The new structure will take the business into a new era. The manufacturing side of the business will move into a spacious building this year. There is the possibility of a flotation two or three years later.

Not that the company needs the money. It has no debts and is self-financing. Hermès is in good shape for the future even if that is slightly uncertain.

The craving for luxury designer goods is evaporating but M Dumas is certain Hermès will be around for a long time. "People will always dream of owning a little bit of Hermès. We've got our foot on the ground but we open the window and look at the sky. It's the best way to go far."

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily ch/g	Yearly ch/g	Daily ch/g	Yearly ch/g	Daily ch/g	Yearly ch/g
The World	734.3	0.1	-12.9	-0.4	-8.6	-1.1	-10.0
(free)	140.3	0.1	-13.0	-0.4	-8.7	-1.1	-10.1
EAPE	1324.6	-0.5	-15.0	-1.0	-10.4	-1.7	-12.1
(free)	135.1	-0.5	-15.2	-1.1	-10.6	-1.7	-12.3
Europe	702.8	-0.4	-7.7	-0.8	-5.8	-1.6	-4.8
(free)	150.8	-0.4	-7.8	-0.9	-6.0	-1.6	-4.7
Nth America	490.0	0.2	-3.9	-0.2	-1.2	-0.9	-0.7
Nordic	1496.0	0.3	-1.4	-0.1	-1.5	-0.9	-1.3
(free)	231.3	0.3	-1.4	-0.1	-1.5	-0.9	-1.3
Pacific	3208.9	-0.6	-19.1	-1.3	-13.2	-1.8	-16.4
Far East	4684.9	-0.7	-19.4	-1.3	-13.5	-1.8	-16.7
Australia	309.4	0.4	-10.9	-0.2	-4.9	-0.3	-7.9
Asia	2041.1	0.4	37.3	0.2	43.8	-0.8	41.9
Belgium	826.2	1.0	-16.1	0.7	-13.2	-0.2	-13.3
Canada	526.1	1.2	-12.4	-0.1	-7.0	0.0	-9.5
Denmark	1293.5	0.1	-1.7	0.0	1.4	0.1	1.5
Finland	116.0	1.7	0.5	1.4	3.1	0.5	4.0
(free)	153.2	2.3	2.8	2.0	5.3	1.1	6.2
France	711.3	-0.3	-12.0	-0.6	-9.1	-1.5	-9.1
Germany	876.6	-0.8	-4.5	-0.9	0.0	-1.9	-1.3
Hong Kong	2216.7	0.5	-0.1	-0.7	3.3	-0.7	3.3
Italy	348.1	0.0	-9.4	-0.3	-5.8	-1.1	-6.4
Japan	4839.0	-0.7	-20.0	-1.4	-14.0	-1.9	-17.4
Netherlands	897.8	-0.2	-11.4	-0.4	-7.6	-1.3	-8.4
New Zealand	65.8	0.6	-13.8	1.4	-9.9	1.4	-11.0
Norway	1520.8	0.3	13.3	0.1	16.7	-0.9	17.1
(free)	265.1	0.5	13.5	0.1	16.9	-0.7	17.3
Sing/Malaysia	2005.2	0.0	0.5	-0.8	2.5	-1.2	3.9
Spain	206.6	0.3	-12.7	-0.1	-9.8	-0.9	-9.8
Sweden	1590.0	0.0	-9.3	-0.5	-7.0	-1.1	-8.3
(free)	222.3	0.1	-7.9	-0.6	-5.5	-1.1	-4.9
Switzerland	866.7	-0.7	-5.3	-1.1	-4.7	-1.9	-2.2
(free)	131.5	-0.8	-5.7	-1.2	-6.1	-2.0	-2.6
UK	666.4	-0.7	-7.6	-0.7	-7.6	-1.9	-4.5
USA	441.5	1.3	-8.6	0.1	-5.6	0.1	-5.6

(SIP Local currency)

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

	Index	Value	Daily ch/g	Yearly ch/g	Daily ch/g	Yearly ch/g	Daily ch/g	Yearly ch/g
FTSE 100	2,415.0	1.3	-8.6	0.1	-5.6	0.1	-5.6	
	2,415.0	1.3	-8.6	0.1	-5.6	0.1	-5.6	
	2,415.0	1.3	-8.6	0.1	-5.6	0.1	-5.6	
	2,415.0	1.3	-8.6	0.1	-5.6	0.1	-5.6	
	2,415.0	1.3	-8.6	0.1	-5.6	0.1	-5.6	
	2,415.0	1.3	-8.6	0.1	-5.6	0.1	-5.6	
	2,415.0	1.3	-8.6	0.1	-5.6	0.1	-5.6	
	2,415.0	1.3	-8.6	0.1	-5.6	0.1	-5.6	
	2,415.0	1.3	-8.6	0.1	-5.6	0.1	-5.6	
	2,415.0	1.3	-8.6	0.1	-5.6	0.1	-5.6	
FTSE 250	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
FTSE 350	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
FTSE 450	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
FTSE 550	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
FTSE 650	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
FTSE 750	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
FTSE 850	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
FTSE 950	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
FTSE 1050	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
FTSE 1150	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
FTSE 1250	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
FTSE 1350	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
FTSE 1450	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
FTSE 1550	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
FTSE 1650	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
FTSE 1750	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
FTSE 1850	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	
	1,150.0	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	</

BUSINESS LETTERS

Courts need clear policy on Law of Negligence

From Mr V. William Taylor
Sir, Although I spend a considerable portion of my life in teaching others about the Law of Negligence, I find myself somewhat at a loss.

It appears that Messrs Touche Ross & Co, a firm of Chartered Accountants, who, it is alleged, approved annual accounts for a public company showing a profit of £1.3m instead of a loss of £400,000 are not responsible to persons who buy the company or even those who hold shares in the company. (The Times, February 12, Caparo Industries Plc v Dickman and Others).

We do not know what audit fees were, but we may take them to be very considerable. The House of Lords found that there was no "voluntary assumption of liability" to the shareholders, or prospective purchasers, in the publication of the accounts including the report of the auditors.

It must be stated that Neg-

ligence has not been proved since the case arose on a preliminary point of law.

It also appears that a surveyor of a ship, and the publisher of the report as to its condition, are not liable to the purchaser of that vessel, even if the report is substantially inaccurate. (The Times, February 21, Mariola Marine Corporation v Lloyd's Register of Shipping (The Morning Watch)).

The fee paid to the surveyor is not disclosed, but it is no secret that marine surveying is expensive.

Mr Justice Phillips found that Lloyd's made "no voluntary assumption of liability" to the plaintiff. In both cases, reference is made to the decision of the House of Lords in Smith v Bush (1989), where valuers were found liable to the purchaser of a house when acting for the lender of money.

In both Smith v Bush and

Harris v Wyre Forest (DC) (which were heard together) there were express disclaimers of responsibility which were held to be ineffective.

In the Court of Appeal in Harris's Case, such a disclaimer had been held to deny the acceptance of the "voluntary assumption of liability" which features so largely in the two new cases. This was reversed in the Lords.

The fees paid for the valuations were £36.89 by Mrs Smith and £22 by Mr Harrial. I am trying to understand what the policy of the courts is in these matters.

It appears that the greater the fee, the wider the publication, and the greater the number of people potentially at risk, the less the responsibility for the negligent statement.

If I am right, this is a curious policy!

I am also concerned as to whether the Courts ought to

have a policy in such matters. This would seem to be arrogating to themselves a degree of legislative power which might properly be considered to be the prerogative of Parliament.

Courts must have enough policy to ensure that their decisions are consistent (which seems to have failed in these cases).

I doubt their right to be the power to say, as a matter of policy, that valuers of houses are liable for economic loss caused by negligent words, but that Chartered Accountants and Lloyd's Register of Shipping are not.

They have never stated such a policy, but I find the inference inescapable.

Yours faithfully,
V. WILLIAM TAYLOR,
Chartered surveyor,
4 Charlton Road,
Waninge,
Oxon.
February 21.

Payout static as Philips advances to dull £718m

From Derek Harris, Eindhoven, The Netherlands

Philips Lamps, the electronics company which has been pushing through a reduced core and rationalization programme, has brought in full-year pre-tax profits of 2.3 billion guilders (£718 million), a 4 per cent increase, against last year's 4.3 per cent rise.

Allowing for disposals and setting out currency changes, the improvement on a comparable basis was 4.7 per cent, down from the 5 per cent seen the year before.

The period saw sales rise 2 per cent to Dfl57.2 billion, although on a comparable basis the increase showed a 7 per cent gain. The results were below some market expectations and the dividend stays at Dfl2.

Not consolidated were the results of domestic electrical appliance sales because 53 per cent of the business has been

moved away from organizing its business on a national basis to one of product divisions acting internationally in increasingly throwing up property assets. The proceeds from the sale of its Paris headquarters showed up in the latter part of the year. This accounts for much of the rise in "other business" income, which rose to Dfl598 million (Dfl315 million).

Although sales growth this year is expected, on a comparable basis, to ease slightly to 6 per cent, Mr Cornelius van der Klugt, the Philips president and chairman of its board of management, was optimistic on likely improvements in the troubled divisions, saying that the slimming of the company was continuing, with job savings of about 15,000 achieved.

There were no detailed fig-

ures covering Philips UK. However, the indications were that sales of the British operation were running at about £1.1 billion, with losses of about £30 million apparently reflecting the costs of the organizational changes.

Mr van der Klugt was speaking after the announcement of a series of management changes which will bring a team largely in their mid-fifties to the fore at Philips. The president is to retire aged 65 in July next year.

Appointed in 1986, he has headed sweeping changes at Philips and will be succeeded by Mr Jan Timmer, head of the consumer electronics division. Mr Timmer said: "We shall continue the line we have been following. With the right management and attitudes, and the will to win, problems can be overcome."

We did everything we could to prevent

From Mr R. A. Galliers-Pratt and Mr N. K. Cayzer
Sir, On February 1, 1990, in an article headed "Barnett was edged out of Dominion", you attributed to Mr John Clarke, a non-executive director of Dominion International Group, the statement that he believed that we had contributed to the collapse of Dominion.

Mr Clarke was reported as saying that there was "no obvious foundation" to allegations which we had asked, as directors, to be investigated by Lord Barnett, then chairman of the company.

In the autumn of 1988 we expressed serious concerns about the management of Dominion to Lord Barnett who was then the Deputy Chairman of Dominion.

This resulted in Lord Barnett exchanging roles with Mr Max Lewinson, who was

then the Chairman, and in Lord Barnett agreeing to our request to investigate certain specific matters. Those allegations were supported by a written statement made by a past director of Dominion. Our intention was to secure a change in the management of Dominion.

Lord Barnett found with one exception no suggestion of justifiable criticism arising from the allegations. Because of our agreement with Dominion we had to accept the result of Lord Barnett's investigation at the time but we believed that the investigation was inadequate.

No management changes were made until July 1989 and in our view this prevented remedial action being taken to restore Dominion's fortunes. The Company's shares were suspended in September of that year and Administrators

Dominion collapse

were appointed in January 1990.

Far from contributing to the demise of Dominion by instigating a spurious investigation, we did everything we could to prevent its collapse. Subsequent events have since vindicated our concerns. We have now been informed that the Administrators of Dominion are carrying out a thorough investigation into these matters.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. GALLIERS-PRATT
and N. K. CAYZER,
43 Dover Street,
London,
W1.

February 26.
Neither The Times nor Mr Clarke ever meant to suggest that Lord Barnett's investigation was instigated for spurious reasons or that it in any way helped precipitate the collapse of Dominion.

Awaiting the thud of falling trusts

From Mr David Shamash
Sir, The BZW Convertible Investment Trust received a strong recommendation in your *Tempos* column both when floated in January and again on February 26.

While I agree that in themselves convertible stocks are an excellent investment, I fear that the BZW Trust will suffer from the very fact that it is an Investment Trust and, like all such, trade at a considerable discount to the underlying value of its constituent stocks.

Thus it may have quite a way to fall from its present price of 97p, which is a mere 3 per cent below its issue price.

In his column, *Tempos* advised that "those tempted to take the plunge should at least wait until the market as a whole has bottomed out."

The earliest investment advice that I can recall was my father recounting the old saw that no one rings a bell when the market reaches its peak: what signal may be expected to indicate reaching bottom?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SHAMASH,
34 Floral Street,
London,
WC2. February 27.

Letters to The Times Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on (01) 782 5112.

HK study of Paladin and NZE

Hong Kong (Reuters) — The Hong Kong government has appointed an inspector to investigate the affairs of Paladin, a locally-listed investment company, and the link with New Zealand Equities, its financially-ailing subsidiary.

Sir Piers Jacobs, the Financial Secretary, has appointed Mr John Lees, principal of Ferrier Hodgson Spicer and Marlan, as inspector.

A receiver has also been appointed in New Zealand for NZE, formerly Paladin's holding company but now the Hong Kong company's subsidiary after a reorganization.

Under Hong Kong's Companies Ordinance, the Financial Secretary can order an investigation if there appears to be evidence of fraud, misfeasance (illegality), or the company has not properly disclosed all relevant information.

A group of Paladin's minority shareholders linked with Lai See, a private Hong Kong company, had tried to stop the reorganization of the relationship between Paladin and NZE, which is heavily in debt.

Paladin's management refused to make any comment.

New price regime 'is incentive to waste gas'

British Gas criticized over industrial tariffs

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

A new British Gas price structure for industry has been criticized as environmentally unfriendly by Ofgas, the government-appointed watchdog.

Mr James McKinnon, director general of Ofgas, said the point at which industrial customers could switch from taking supplies on the nationally-set tariff to supplies on the first rung of the national range of industrial contract prices was still too high.

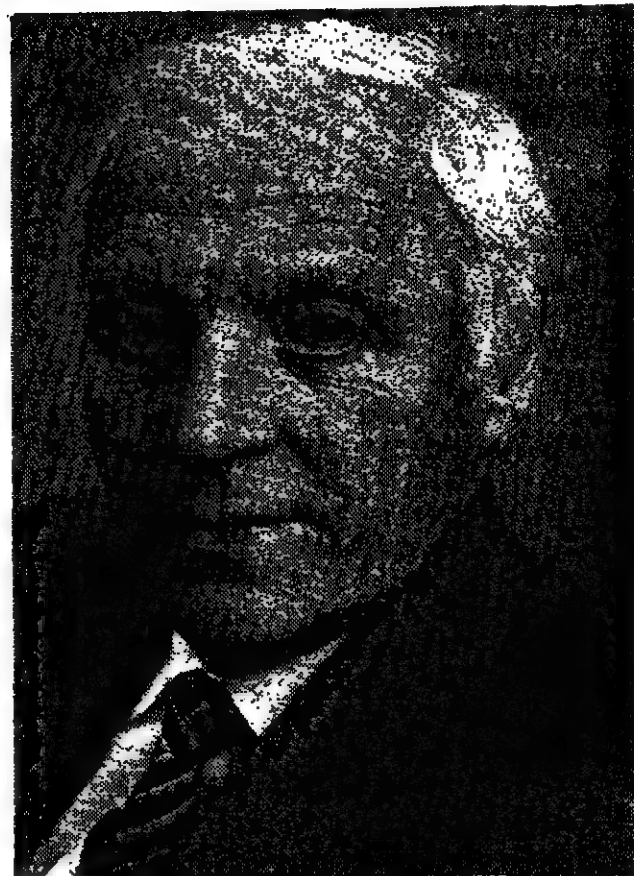
British Gas has announced new lower prices for industrial customers taking more than 15,000 therms of tariff gas.

But according to Mr McKinnon, the price differential between tariff and contract prices, although now narrowed, means that some companies taking just under 25,000 therms a year at tariff rates could find it cheaper to take more gas than they actually need to take them into the contract price regime.

This gas, says Ofgas, is wastefully used and creates unnecessary emissions.

Mr McKinnon said: "Unfortunately, there is still not a completely smooth transition between the tariff and contract markets, and the existence of the price differential means that the incentive to waste gas remains."

"It is also regrettable that the 15,000 therm cut-off chosen by British Gas gives only a very small proportion of commercial and industrial customers in the tariff sector the benefit of lower prices. By adopting a cut-off point at a lower level, for example 5,000 therms a year, British Gas



"Benefit for the few": James McKinnon, Ofgas director general could bring keener prices to a greater proportion of small businesses in this sector of the market."

Mr McKinnon, whose remit does not cover the setting of contract prices but does cover overseeing the formula under which tariff prices are linked to the inflation rate, added: "I will continue to press British Gas to adopt a lower limit and establish a more realistic dividing line between the domestic customer and other users of gas and to achieve a smoother transition between the tariff and contract market."

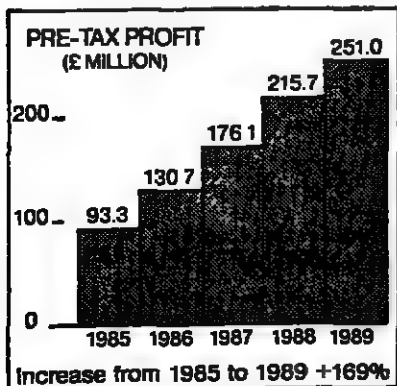
Mr McKinnon said the pricing formula for domestic customers had stood the test of time and inflation. The formula had worked to the benefit of consumers, bringing them a 10 per cent real reduction in gas prices, he added.

Cadbury Schweppes MANAGEMENT PROVEN IN THE MARKET PLACE. Cadbury Schweppes MANAGEMENT PROVEN IN THE MARKET PLACE. Cadbury Schweppes

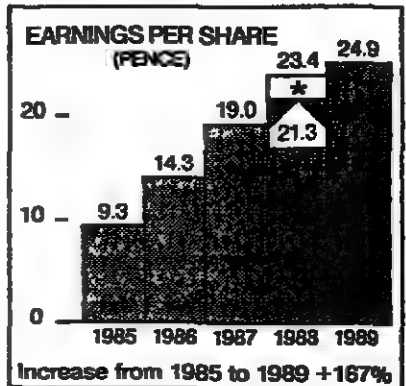
Cadbury Schweppes

1989 Results

Sales	£2,843.2m	+19.4%
Trading Profit	£279.7m	+22.2%
Pre-tax Profit	£251.0m	+16.4%
Earnings per Share	24.89p	+ 6.1%
Dividend per Share	10.70p	+16.3%



- Underlying earnings per share up 17.1% after adjusting 1988 for the once-off Advance Corporation Tax credit.
- Sales, profit and margin up against last year.
- Marketing £305 m (up 13.7%) and capital expenditure £204 m (up 37.2%) continue our emphasis on future growth.
- Business base broadened and strengthened through active acquisition programme in both Beverages and Confectionery streams.
- Dividend per share up 16.3%.



Sir Graham Day, Chairman

Cadbury Schweppes

The contents of this statement, for which the directors of Cadbury Schweppes plc are solely responsible, have been approved for the purpose of Section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986 by Arthur Andersen & Co., as an authorised person.

Cadbury Schweppes MANAGEMENT PROVEN IN THE MARKET PLACE. Cadbury Schweppes MANAGEMENT PROVEN IN THE MARKET PLACE. Cadbury Schweppes

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

- The Stockwatch service gives readers instant telephone access to the prices of more than 13,000 shares, unit trusts and bonds.
- Stock market comment: the general situation in the stock market can be obtained by ringing 0898 121220.
- Company news: items relating to company news can be obtained by telephoning 0898 121221.
- The prices of shares actively trading in the stock market may be obtained by telephoning 0898 121225.
- The telephone calls are charged at a rate of 38p per minute during peak times. During standard times, they are charged at 25p per minute. Charges include VAT.

AAI restructured for growth

31 December 1989

Earnings
£3.0m
1988 £2.4m

Earnings Per Share
17.5p (+25.9%)

Dividend Per Share
10.0p (+53.8%)

With two strongly performing operating companies, good depth of management and secure £10m of high-yielding cash still to reinvest, AAI is confident of further progress in 1990.

AAI Investment Corporation PLC

(Registered in England No. 550485)

Copies of the Preliminary Statement, which is being mailed to all shareholders, may be obtained from Registrars: Registrars Services Ltd., Bourne House, 34 Beckenhurst Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 4TL. Telephone No. 01-650 4866.

The contents of this advertisement, for which the Directors of AAI Investment Corporation PLC are solely responsible, have been approved for the purposes of Section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986, by an authorised person.

Mortgage Rate Change

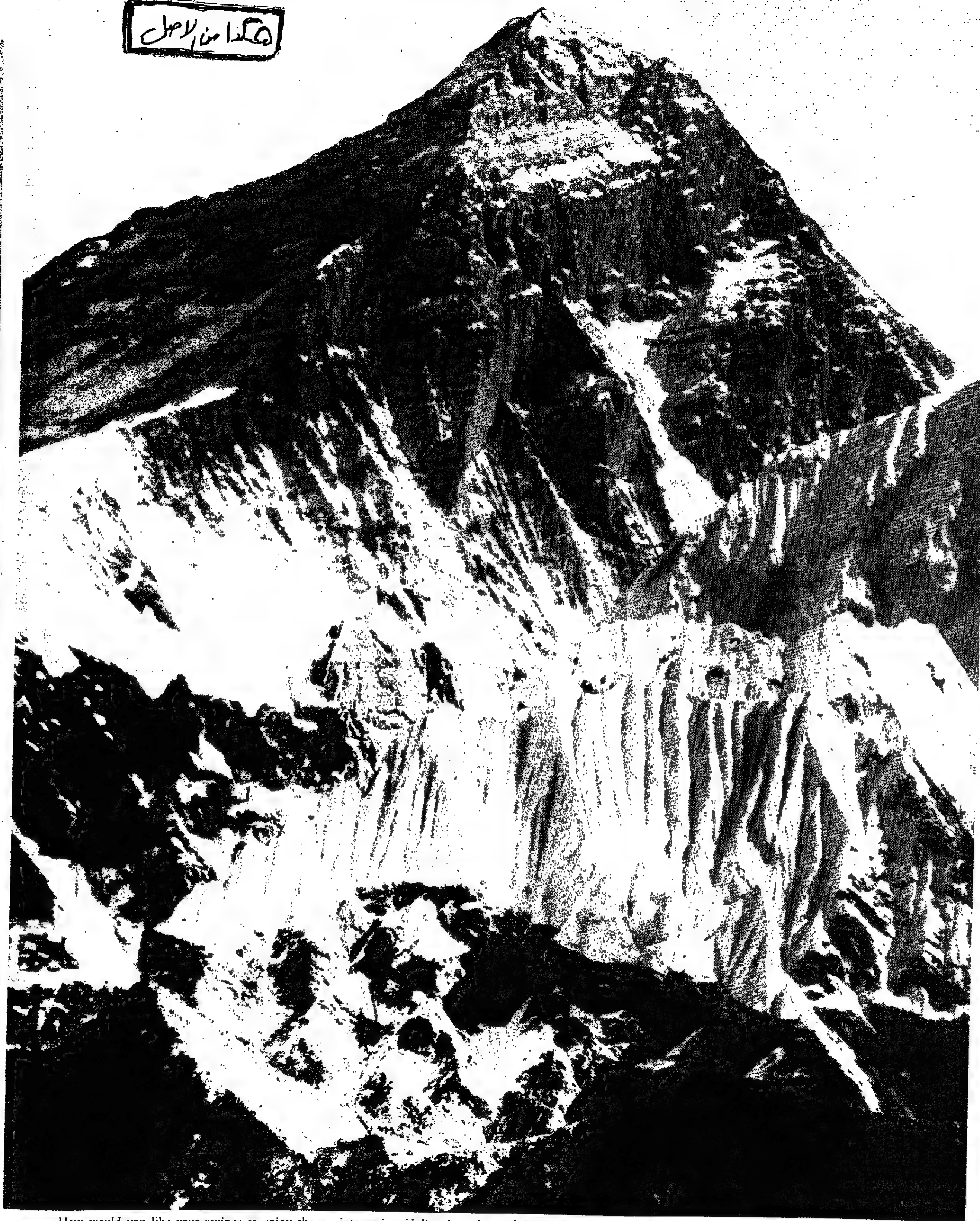
AIB Bank announces that its Home Mortgage Rate will change to 15.5% with effect from close of business on 28th February, 1990. APR 16.5.



Bankcentre-Britain, Belmont Road, Unbridge, Middlesex UB8 1SA. Telephone: (0895) 72222 and branches throughout the country. Allied Irish Banks, p.l.c.

LEEDS SPECIAL EDITION. A NEW PEAK. 13.08% C.A.R. (12.50% NET)*.

قلم من اجل



How would you like your savings to enjoy the rarified atmosphere of an interest rate as high as 13.08% C.A.R. (12.50% net)?

From March 1st, you can, with the Leeds Special Edition account. First by earning the interest. Then stacking more interest on the interest.

Here's how it works.

When you open a Leeds Special Edition account you get 12.00% net on savings of £5,000 or more. 12.25% net on £10,000 or more. And 12.50% net for sums of £25,000 or more.

As we're paying such high interest we ask that you leave your money untouched for 12 months. But the

interest is paid directly each month into a Leeds Liquid Gold account, so you have instant access to that.

And here's the really interesting bit. The interest continues to earn interest. Over a year, if you invest £25,000 you're earning 12.50% net in the Special Edition account, the compounded interest works out at a mountainous 13.08% C.A.R. (12.50% net).

(In fact from March 1st, rates go up on all our savings accounts.)

To open an account send the coupon to: 47/Savings and Investment, FREEPOST, PO Box 93, Leeds Permanent Building Society, The Headrow, Leeds LS1 1SQ.

Or phone free now on 0800 590 740 for full details.

Or contact your nearest Leeds branch.

Why do we let your money scale such heights? Just because it's there.

Mr/Mrs/Miss Surname _____
Forename/s _____
Date of Birth _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

Please tick appropriate box
☐ I/we enclose a cheque number _____ for £ _____ (min £5,000) to be invested in a Leeds Special Edition account.
☐ I would like further details of the Leeds Special Edition account.
☐ I would like further details of all Leeds Savings Accounts and increased interest rates.

the Leeds
LEEDS PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY

* Basic rate 10.00% p.a. Interest rates are variable. 13.08% C.A.R. calculated on the basis of £25,000 invested at 12.50% net p.a. Interest transferred to Leeds Liquid Gold account to earn 12.50% net p.a. if no withdrawals are made - an effective C.A.R. of 13.08%. If money is required within the 12 month period the account must be closed with the lowest 12 months' interest. The following interest rates apply from 1st March 1990. The Special Edition Account is opened with the entire sum with the Leeds Liquid Gold Account initially at zero balance. The investment is made on 1st January and the whole sum is retained for a full year. The C.A.R. quoted covers the whole investment across the Special Edition and Liquid Gold Accounts. The interest remains unchanged from the current rate throughout the year on both accounts.

£7.15

byd M

STOCK MARKET

Signs that the US economy was reviving and that no morning close. Prices closed broadly weaker in reduced volume on late selling

● Singapore — The *Straits Times* industrial index retreated 4.01 to 1,546.05 after rising to 1,553.75 at the morning close. Prices closed broadly weaker in reduced volume on late selling.

Yen slump helps push Nikkei down 762 points

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

The delay in raising Japan's interest rates, which is supporting the yen, has hit the bottom. Currency traders said that the inability of Japan's ruling Liberal Democrats to form a cabinet quickly on Tuesday night has started speculation about internal squabbling and raised fears of political instability.

WORLD MARKETS

Frankfurt (Reuters) — The DAX index fell 22.05 points, or 1.2 per cent, to 1,787.87. Uncertainty about developments in East Germany continued to cloud the outlook, driving prices lower in thin trading.

Shares have followed a roller-coaster route this week, affected by alternating sentiment on German monetary union and external factors, including plunging Japanese prices. Prices here fell 0.8 per cent on Monday only to rise by 2 per cent during the next two days.

● **Hong Kong** — The Hang Seng index fell 18.85 to 2,933.13 and the broader-based Hong Kong index 12.40 to 1,924.23. Prices closed lower with attention turning to the fundamentals that made

the market closed mostly lower amid minimal support.

The market closed mostly lower amid minimal support.

Asda, the supermarket chain, eased 1½p to 108½p, reflecting a bearish circular from Morgan Stanley, the broker, which believes the shares are still overpriced.

Fine Art Developments
dropped 27p to 230p. Smith
New Court, the broker, has
cut its profit forecast from

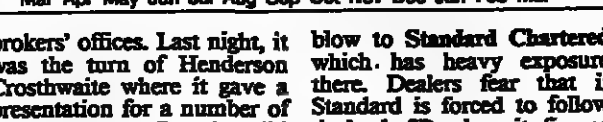
£27.5 million to £23 million for this year and from £32.5 million to £28 million for 1991. Losses at Venture Marketing and a poor Christmas at Papertree are partly blamed.

when taking into account the 28 per cent decline in earnings forecast for the current year. The share price is at a 13-year low relative to the rest of the market and the prospects of a bid remain remote.

But, taking a longer-term view, Morgan Stanley is looking for a partial earnings recovery next year and is urging its clients to buy the shares. It is forecasting pre-tax profits of about £210 million for 1991 compared with an expected £175 million for this year.

Camford Engineering
ranged 62p to 308p following
a £64 million bid from Mark
Heath Securities, the property
group which is 49.9 per cent
owned by Mr John Spalvin's
Adelaide Steamship. But
Camford called the offer inad-
equate. Markheath already
owns almost 30 per cent of
Camford. There was been talk
this week that Markheath
would make a move for
Frogmore Estates, where it
already has a 25 per cent
holding. Frogmore fell 16p to
514p on the news.

Michael Clark



The number of shares traded daily this week has failed to rise above 400 million and corporate activity has also slumped following the increase in interest rates and the downturn in the economy. Brokers have been complaining for sometime that there is not enough volume to support the number of brokers in the City and that other countries

Only 379 million shares were traded yesterday as the

Stanley Miller, the builder, hit a low of 45p before closing 14p down at 75p. Dealers are worried about the Newcastle Quayside development. North Eastern Investment Trust put its 29.9 per cent stake up for sale last month when the price stood at 150p. BZW recently resigned as broker.

institutions remained on the sidelines. The latest setback in Tokyo and further reflection on this week's poor trade figures left the FT-SE 100 index nursing a fall of 17.0 at 2,238.4. The FT index of 30


shares lost 16.5 at 1,764.9. Dealers expect the FT-SE index to start testing the 2,200 level again within the next day or so.

Government securities suffered further heavy losses, losing as much as £1 at the longer end. The Thorn EMI price remained in freefall, losing another 17p to 680p with dealers convinced that it is about to make an important acquisition in the US.

The word is that the group want to buy a big record company and has set its sights on the privately-owned Geffen Records, which is now approaching the end of a distribution agreement with Time Warner Inc. Thorn already owns Capitol and EMI Music and has a stake in Chrysalis. Dealers say the deal could be worth as much as \$750 million.

Carlton Communications
continued with its visits to

[illegible][illegible]




Royal Insurance

1989 PRELIMINARY RESULTS

13% Dividend Increase

- Capital and Reserves increased by £529m to £2,663m, up 25%.
- Net assets per share up from 441p to 546p.
- Pre-tax trading Profit £126m (1988: £223m).
- Earnings per share 18.6p (1988: 32.1p).
- Premium income up over 19% to £4,743m.
- Investment income up 25% to £522m.

The second half of 1989 saw an unprecedented series of significant losses with Hurricane Hugo, earthquakes in San Francisco and Australia and subsidence losses in the UK. Costing some £113m in total they adversely affected the pre-tax result for the year which was a profit of £126m compared to £223m in 1988.



Royal Insurance

A full statement for the preliminary results for 1989 (of which the above is an extract) will be mailed to all shareholders, and is also available from Corporate Relations, Royal Insurance Holdings plc, 1 Cornhill, London EC3V 3QR. Please send me a copy of Royal Insurance's preliminary statement.

NAME: _____

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At this point, we must admit you do have to press a few buttons to get Delta service. For reservations, see your Travel Agent or call our reservation line on 0800 414 767.



The prices in this section refer to Wednesday's trading

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 89.3 (day's range 89.3-93.6).				
STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES				
Market rates for March 1				
	Rate	Close	1 month	3 months
New York	1.9950-1.9750	1.9850-1.9680	0.94-0.9300	2.77-2.74
London	1.9700-1.9500	1.9700-1.9500	0.94-0.9300	2.77-2.74
Australia	3.2000-3.2200	3.2100-3.2100	1.15-1.15p	4.74-4.74p
Brussels	95-17.50-91	97-17.50-93	54-52p	88-85p
Frankfurt	1.9700-1.9500	1.9700-1.9500	75-75p	88-85p
Dublin	1.9700-1.9700	1.9700-1.9710	83-82p	77-77p
Frankfurt	2.0518-2.0507	2.0525-2.0508	1.15-1.15p	4.74-4.74p
Paris	1.9700-1.9500	1.9700-1.9500	0.94-0.9300	2.77-2.74
Madrid	182-182.55	182-183.21	15-15p	23-10p
Amsterdam	10.3225-10.3225	10.3225-10.3225	5-4p	15-11p
Osaka	10.3225-10.3225	10.3225-10.3225	5-4p	15-11p
Paris	2.0508-2.0518	2.0490-2.0525	37p-37p	101p-99p
Osaka	10.3225-10.3225	10.3225-10.3225	5-4p	15-11p
Tokyo	2.0496-2.0507	2.0490-2.0490	1.15-1.15p	4.74-4.74p
Vienna	20.00-20.15	20.00-20.09	11.15-11.15p	32p-30p
Zurich	2.0500-2.0500	2.0505-2.0507	1.15-1.15p	4.74-4.74p
Zurich = 100, Sterling = 100				

OTHER STERLING RATES	
Argentina austral	\$801.52-854.34
Australia dollar	2.1014-2.1014
Bahrain cheer	0.8275-0.8275
Brazil cruzeiro	\$0.0151-0.0151
Canada dollar	0.7660-0.7660
Denmark krone	1.3660-1.3660
Greece drachma	268.40-268.40
Hong Kong dollar	7.80-7.80
India rupee	2.42-2.42
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4870-0.4870
Malaysia dollar	2.36-2.36
Mexico peso	2.500-480
New Zealand dollar	2.8351-2.8351
Philippines peso	2.00-2.00
Singapore dollar	2.2576-2.2576
Sri Lanka (l) r	1.2790-1.2790
S Africa rand (cont)	4.1295-4.1295
UAE Dirham	6.1100-6.1100

Lloyds Bank, Rates marked by asterisk	
U.S. dollar	1.9700-1.9500
Canada dollar	0.7660-0.7660
Swiss franc	2.0500-2.0500
Japanese yen	10.3225-10.3225
Deutsche mark	2.0500-2.0500
French franc	182-182.55
Italian lire	182-182.55
Spanish peseta	182-182.55
Portuguese escudo	182-182.55
Belgian franc	95-17.50-91
Dutch guilder	3.2000-3.2200
Austrian schilling	13.7603-13.7603
Polish zloty	10.3225-10.3225
Czech koruna	10.3225-10.3225
Slovak koruna	10.3225-10.3225
Hungarian forint	10.3225-10.3225
Romanian leu	10.3225-10.3225
Bulgarian lev	10.3225-10.3225
Soviet ruble	10.3225-10.3225
Yugoslav dinar	10.3225-10.3225
Croatian kuna	10.3225-10.3225
Slovenian tolar	10.3225-10.3225
Czechoslovak koruna	10.3225-10.3225
Polish zloty	10.3225-10.3225
Czech koruna	10.3225-10.3225
Slovak koruna	10.3225-10.3225
Hungarian forint	10.3225-10.3225
Romanian leu	10.3225-10.3225
Bulgarian lev	10.3225-10.3225
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Slovenian tolar	10.3225-10.3225
Czechoslovak koruna	10.3225-10.3225
Polish zloty	10.3225-10.3225
Czech koruna	10.3225-10.3225
Slovak koruna	10.3225-10.3225
Hungarian forint	10.3225-10.3225
Romanian leu	10.3225-10.3225
Bulgarian lev	10.3225-10.3225
Soviet ruble	10.3225-10.3225
Yugoslav dinar	10.3225-10.3225
Croatian kuna	10.3225-10.3225
Slovenian tolar	10.3225-10.3225
Czechoslovak koruna	10.3225-10.3225
Polish zloty	10.3225-10.3225
Czech koruna	10.3225-10.3225
Slovak koruna	10.3225-10.3225
Hungarian forint	10.3225-10.3225
Romanian leu	10.3225-10.3225
Bulgarian lev	10.3225-10.3225
Soviet ruble	10.3225-10.32

DOLLAR SPOT RATES			
Ireland	1.5550-1.5565	Denmark	5.8653-5.8685
Singapore	1.5740-1.5750	W Germany	1.7107-1.7114
Malaysia	2.7055-2.7068	Switzerland	1.5002-1.5012
Australia	1.9063-1.9101	Netherlands	1.5275-1.5286
France	1.181-1.1820	Italy	5.7515-5.7585
Sweden	1.1905-1.1955	Spain	149.80-149.80
Norway	5.5875-5.5725	Japan	149.80-149.80
		Belgium (Com)	126.0-126.0
		Hong Kong	7.0000-7.0000
		Portugal	149.80-149.80
		Spain	109.80-109.80
		France	12.06-12.06

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank, GTS and Reuters

MONEY MARKETS

Base Rates 1/4%; Clearing Rates 1/5% Discount Market Loans % Overnight 1/4%; 14% Low 13% Week base 14% 2 month 14% 3 month 14% 6 month 14% 1 year 14% 1 1/2 years 14% 2 years 14% 2 1/2 years 14% 3 years 14% 4 years 14% 5 years 14% 6 years 14% 7 years 14% 8 years 14% 9 years 14% 10 years 14% 11 years 14% 12 years 14% 13 years 14% 14 years 14% 15 years 14% 16 years 14% 17 years 14% 18 years 14% 19 years 14% 20 years 14% 21 years 14% 22 years 14% 23 years 14% 24 years 14% 25 years 14% 26 years 14% 27 years 14% 28 years 14% 29 years 14% 30 years 14% 31 years 14% 32 years 14% 33 years 14% 34 years 14% 35 years 14% 36 years 14% 37 years 14% 38 years 14% 39 years 14% 40 years 14% 41 years 14% 42 years 14% 43 years 14% 44 years 14% 45 years 14% 46 years 14% 47 years 14% 48 years 14% 49 years 14% 50 years 14% 51 years 14% 52 years 14% 53 years 14% 54 years 14% 55 years 14% 56 years 14% 57 years 14% 58 years 14% 59 years 14% 60 years 14% 61 years 14% 62 years 14% 63 years 14% 64 years 14% 65 years 14% 66 years 14% 67 years 14% 68 years 14% 69 years 14% 70 years 14% 71 years 14% 72 years 14% 73 years 14% 74 years 14% 75 years 14% 76 years 14% 77 years 14% 78 years 14% 79 years 14% 80 years 14% 81 years 14% 82 years 14% 83 years 14% 84 years 14% 85 years 14% 86 years 14% 87 years 14% 88 years 14% 89 years 14% 90 years 14% 91 years 14% 92 years 14% 93 years 14% 94 years 14% 95 years 14% 96 years 14% 97 years 14% 98 years 14% 99 years 14% 100 years 14% 101 years 14% 102 years 14% 103 years 14% 104 years 14% 105 years 14% 106 years 14% 107 years 14% 108 years 14% 109 years 14% 110 years 14% 111 years 14% 112 years 14% 113 years 14% 114 years 14% 115 years 14% 116 years 14% 117 years 14% 118 years 14% 119 years 14% 120 years 14% 121 years 14% 122 years 14% 123 years 14% 124 years 14% 125 years 14% 126 years 14% 127 years 14% 128 years 14% 129 years 14% 130 years 14% 131 years 14% 132 years 14% 133 years 14% 134 years 14% 135 years 14% 136 years 14% 137 years 14% 138 years 14% 139 years 14% 140 years 14% 141 years 14% 142 years 14% 143 years 14% 144 years 14% 145 years 14% 146 years 14% 147 years 14% 148 years 14% 149 years 14% 150 years 14% 151 years 14% 152 years 14% 153 years 14% 154 years 14% 155 years 14% 156 years 14% 157 years 14% 158 years 14% 159 years 14% 160 years 14% 161 years 14% 162 years 14% 163 years 14% 164 years 14% 165 years 14% 166 years 14% 167 years 14% 168 years 14% 169 years 14% 170 years 14% 171 years 14% 172 years 14% 173 years 14% 174 years 14% 175 years 14% 176 years 14% 177 years 14% 178 years 14% 179 years 14% 180 years 14% 181 years 14% 182 years 14% 183 years 14% 184 years 14% 185 years 14% 186 years 14% 187 years 14% 188 years 14% 189 years 14% 190 years 14% 191 years 14% 192 years 14% 193 years 14% 194 years 14% 195 years 14% 196 years 14% 197 years 14% 198 years 14% 199 years 14% 200 years 14% 201 years 14% 202 years 14% 203 years 14% 204 years 14% 205 years 14% 206 years 14% 207 years 14% 208 years 14% 209 years 14% 210 years 14% 211 years 14% 212 years 14% 213 years 14% 214 years 14% 215 years 14% 216 years 14% 217 years 14% 218 years 14% 219 years 14% 220 years 14% 221 years 14% 222 years 14% 223 years 14% 224 years 14% 225 years 14% 226 years 14% 227 years 14% 228 years 14% 229 years 14% 230 years 14% 231 years 14% 232 years 14% 233 years 14% 234 years 14% 235 years 14% 236 years 14% 237 years 14% 238 years 14% 239 years 14% 240 years 14% 241 years 14% 242 years 14% 243 years 14% 244 years 14% 245 years 14% 246 years 14% 247 years 14% 248 years 14% 249 years 14% 250 years 14% 251 years 14% 252 years 14% 253 years 14% 254 years 14% 255 years 14% 256 years 14% 257 years 14% 258 years 14% 259 years 14% 260 years 14% 261 years 14% 262 years 14% 263 years 14% 264 years 14% 265 years 14% 266 years 14% 267 years 14% 268 years 14% 269 years 14% 270 years 14% 271 years 14% 272 years 14% 273 years 14% 274 years 14% 275 years 14% 276 years 14%
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GOLD BULLION (Per ounce)
 Open: \$495.00-500.00 (\$497.00-498.00)
 High: \$497.75-498.25 Low: \$495.00-496.00

GOLD COINS (Per coin, ex VAT)
 Britannia: \$415.00-421.00 (\$249.00-255.00)
 Sovereign: \$415.00-421.00 (\$249.00-255.00)
 Maplesleaf (17oz): \$416.00-421.00 (\$249.00-255.00)
 Maplesleaf (1oz): \$416.00-421.00 (\$249.00-255.00)
 New Sovereign: \$416.00-421.00 (\$249.00-255.00)
 Old Sovereign: \$416.00-421.00 (\$249.00-255.00)

PRECIOUS METALS
 Platinum per kg: \$509.00 (\$367.12)
 Palladium per kg: \$129.35 (\$77.85)
 Spot Silver: \$16.50-17.00 (\$1.03-1.05)

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Open	High	Low	Close	Vol	Open	High
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[illegible][illegible]

PLATINUM

(VOLUMES: PAGE 30)

[illegible]

Pre-planning inquiries charge lawful Jury entitled to ask for tape measure

Regina v Richmond upon Thames London Borough Council, Ex parte McCarthy & Stone (Developments) Ltd
Before Lord Justice Slade, Lord Justice Mann and Sir David Croom-Johnson
[Judgment February 28]

A local authority had the power by virtue of section 111(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 to make a reasonable charge for inquiries relating to speculative redevelopment or development proposals made by prospective purchasers of land.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the applicants, McCarthy & Stone (Developments) Ltd, from the refusal of Mr Justice Bingham (The Times February 7, 1989) to grant judicial review of the decision made by Richmond upon Thames London Borough Council, on October 27, 1987, not to revoke their policy of charging £25 for such inquiries.

Leave was granted to appeal to the House of Lords.

The 1972 Act provides by section 111(1) that a local authority shall have power to do any thing (whether or not involving the expenditure, borrowing or lending of money or the acquisition or disposal of any property or rights) which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions.

Mr Anthony Scriven, QC and Mr Richard Russell for the applicants; Miss Elizabeth Appleby, QC and Mr David Mole for the council.

LORD JUSTICE SLADE, giving the judgment of the court,

It was common practice for persons contemplating proposals for development or redevelopment to seek the informal views of the officers of the planning authority so as to discover whether the proposals were likely to be acceptable.

The desirability of pre-application consultation was common ground. The process, however, inevitably absorbed time on the part of the council officers concerned.

In July 1985 the respondent council passed a resolution that a £25 charge be made for inquiries relating to speculative redevelopment or development proposals by prospective purchasers.

The applicant developers questioned the legality of the charge and asked the council to reconsider its policy.

It was common ground that the council could only do what statute required them to do or permitted them to do.

The statutory provision relied on by the council was section 111(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

If the doing of any thing was to be authorised by that section, the thing must be "calculated to facilitate" or "conducive or incidental to" the discharge of one or more of the council's functions.

The developers did not dispute that the provision by the council of the relevant facilities for consultation were themselves "calculated to facilitate" or "conducive or incidental to" the discharge of the council's functions of determining planning applications and thus fell within the council's powers by virtue of section 111(1).

But there, the developers contended, the line had to be drawn. The council were under no obligation to offer those facilities, yet if they chose to do so, the argument ran, they must do so for no payment; section 111(1) did not authorise them to demand a fee, however reasonable, for the exercise of the power.

There was a fallacy in that argument. The present case had to be distinguished from the many other cases where the local authority were under a duty to offer a service and members of the public had a correlative right to require that service to be provided.

If Parliament had imposed on a local authority a duty, but had not at the same time seen fit to authorise them to impose charges on members of the public as a price for the performance of that duty, it was not open to the authority to invoke section 111(1) by claiming that the imposition of charges was "calculated to facilitate" or "conducive or incidental to" the discharge of such duties.

If they were to seek to charge in such circumstances, they would be calling on people to pay money for the exercise of a privilege.

In the present case, however, the legislature had specifically conferred on planning authorities neither a duty nor a power to give pre-application advice. The power to give such advice was itself merely a subsidiary power, enjoyed by the local authority by virtue of section 111(1).

That subsection conferred the power to do anything conducive

or incidental to the discharge of the authority's functions. The authority would be acting beyond the powers conferred by the subsection if it regarded the activity or transaction as an end in itself.

Within those limits, however, and the further restrictions imposed by section 111(3), the broader parenthesis in subsection (1) made it clear that it was by itself no objection that the activity or transaction in question would involve the receipt of money by the local authority.

The court did not accept that section 111(1) in no circumstances empowered a local authority to impose charges for providing goods or services.

In the present case all that the council were doing was to state, on a take it or leave it basis, that potential applicants who invited the council to enter into pre-application consultations, that they were willing to make an arrangement of that kind, it was part and parcel of the arrangement, they were paid a stated, reasonable, fee by way of reimbursement for their services.

It was clearly open to the council to regard the making of such an arrangement as falling within the subsidiary powers conferred on them by section 111(1), provided only that such an arrangement was not objectionable on Wednesday grounds.

In the present case the intention of the legislature could not possibly be attacked on such grounds.

Solicitors: Messrs Cross & Co; Mr George R. Cheesman, Twickenham.

Regina v Maggs
Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Hirst and Mr Justice Kennedy
[Judgment February 27]

A surveyor's tape given to a jury in retirement without objection or inquiry about the reason why they wanted a tape measure was not giving them fresh evidence or equipment enabling them to carry out unsupervised scientific experiments and so did not constitute a material irregularity invalidating a conviction for causing death by reckless driving, contrary to section 1 of the Road Traffic Act 1972, as substituted by section 59(1) of the Criminal Law Act 1977.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by Edward Maggs, aged 54, a taxi driver, of Avenue Court, Gosport, Hampshire, from a conviction after a four-day trial at Lewes Crown Court (Mr Justice McCowan and a jury) of causing the death by reckless driving in September 1988 of Dennis Dougherty, aged 59, an experienced racing cyclist.

He was fined £250 and disqualified for three years. An appeal against sentence was dismissed.

Mr Alistair Jaffrey, who did not appear below, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Charles Kemp for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellant and the cyclist were travelling in the same direction on the A27, a new road near Chichester at about 7.30am.

The appellant did not give evidence. The accuracy of his version of events in a statement to the police, which was before the jury, was somewhat diminished by an examination of his mind and the cyclist. Also before the jury was a retirement was a sketch map of the road, with measurements in metres.

After they had retired, having been given a direction about which no complaint was made on appeal, they sent a message asking if they could borrow a tape measure. Neither counsel raised any objection. Inquiries were made and the first available object was a surveyor's tape. That was handed to them.

Mr Jaffrey submitted that that was a material irregularity within section 2(1)(c) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 and that the conviction should be quashed. The point at issue was whether there was a material irregularity and, if so, whether the case was a proper one for dismissal on appeal by application of section 2(1)(c) on the ground that no miscarriage of justice had occurred.

His Lordship said that it was well established that no fresh evidence could be given to the jury after they had retired. The case was *R v Davis (George)* (1976) 62 Cr App R 194, 201 in which Lord Widgery, Lord Chief Justice, said that the jury could come back and ask the judge to repeat for their benefit evidence which had been given but they could not come back and ask for anything new and the judge was not to allow them to have anything new.

That principle, however, did not meet the situation existing in the present case where there was a request for equipment rather than for evidence.

That had been the subject of the decision in *R v Stewart (The Times March 23, 1989)* (1989) 89 Cr App R 273, an illegal importation of drugs case, in which conflict arose about the effect on two binary addends of adding 1.8 kilograms of cannabis to each of them. After retirement that jury asked to be provided with weighing scales to conduct experiments in inquiry about the purpose for which the scales were required, they were provided to the jury.

Mr Justice McKinnon, in giving the reserved judgment of the Court of Appeal in *Stewart*, referred to the general principle that no new material was to be supplied to a jury after retirement and went on to say:

"To provide the jury with scales without asking for what purpose they were required was, in our view, a material irregularity."

The Lord Chief Justice said that the observations in *Stewart* about a ruler or magnifying glass were plainly obiter and, in so far as that passage sought to lay down a general principle, the Lordships thought that the words were rather too wide.

Equipment that was required or designed to enable a jury to carry out unsupervised scientific experiments in their room - scales in *Stewart* clearly came within that category - were not permissible.

On the other hand, in their Lordships' judgment, a magnifying glass or a ruler or, come to that, a tape measure, did not pose the same possibility of any such experiments. They were the kind of objects which any person might normally have in his pocket when called to serve on a jury and there could be no objection to his using them in the jury room.

The fact that a surveyor's tape had been supplied and used had caused the Lordships to hesitate. It was, however, clear that the reason why a surveyor's tape measure was supplied was because it was the first thing that came to hand.

There Lordships had no doubt that what the jury required of the tape measure was to see what the measurements on the plan, being expressed in metres, looked like in real life.

Their Lordships regarded as fanciful the suggestion that the jury were intending to carry out some experiments about what happened between the test and the cyclist.

Counsel at trial were coming to raise no objection to the supplying to the jury of a tape measure and the judge was not in error in allowing it to be supplied.

Consequently, there was no material irregularity and, had their Lordships found the supplying of the tape to have been a material irregularity, the case was clearly one for application of the proviso to section 2(1) of the 1968 Act. The appeal against conviction was dismissed.

Solicitors: CPS, Lewes.

Foreign party's impecuniosity relevant in security for costs Compulsory purchase powers were duly exercised

Thames and Another v London Properties Ltd and Others
Before Lord Justice Bingham, Lord Justice Taylor and Lord Justice Farquharson
[Judgment February 20]

Impecuniosity of a personal plaintiff resident outside the jurisdiction was a relevant but not decisive factor in the exercise of the court's discretion on a defendant's application for security for costs under Order 23, rule 1(1)(a) of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

The Court of Appeal so stated allowing an appeal by 14 defendants in three actions from Mr Justice Leggatt's refusal to grant an order for security for costs under Order 23, rule 1(1)(a) of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

The Court of Appeal so stated allowing an appeal by 14 defendants in three actions from Mr Justice Leggatt's refusal to grant an order for security for costs under Order 23, rule 1(1)(a) of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Mr George Newman, QC and Mr Mark Howard for the defendants; Mr James Goudie, QC and Mr Andrew Hochhauser for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE BINGHAM said that the actions arose out of the life and death of Hilmar Reksen, a Norwegian ship-owner who became insolvent in 1974 and died domiciled in Norway in 1980.

Following his death, the estate was declared bankrupt by the Bergen Probate Court and the plaintiffs, who were Norwegian lawyers, were appointed trustees by that court, the estate accordingly vesting in them.

Although its assets were estimated at US\$48 million, claims against the estate were estimated at some US\$430,000 million.

The trustees claimed that the deceased had sold away throughout his life would large sums of money; the defendants, some personal and some corporate, being parties into whose hands such sums had allegedly come.

Mr Newman's main submission had been that where a plaintiff was resident out of the jurisdiction the court should in the ordinary way order security for costs so as to put the defendant in the same position as if the plaintiff had been resident in England where he would be subject to the court's process and control.

He asserted that the judge had failed to give effect to the "what in all the circumstances" test of the proviso to section 726(1) of the Companies Act 1985 only applied to limited companies.

But it was a matter which the court might, and in a proper case should, consider in exercising its discretion when power to make the order had been established.

His Lordship gave a number of reasons for his view. In particular, that in considering "what in all the circumstances" of the case was the just answer (see *dicta* of the Vice-Chancellor in *Porzelack* at p423C) it was irrational to exclude from consideration a matter which was of major importance to one of the parties, perhaps not less important than the case of enforcement, that since Order 23, rule 1(1)(b), (c) and (d) were all concerned with the risk that the defendant might not obtain his costs, as also was section 726 of the 1985 Act, it would have been strange to have treated the matter as altogether irrelevant under (a).

Further in *Bank Mellat v Helleniki Techniki SA* (1984) QB 291 the financial position of the plaintiff had been treated

as a factor relevant not in any real sense, establish jurisdiction but to the exercise of discretion.

His Lordship referred to the rationale of the rule underlying rule 1(1)(a) given by Lord Denning in *London Properties Ltd v The Mansions* (1962) 1 All ER 1009, a Master of the Rolls, in *De Bary*.

The Master of the Rolls had gone on to acknowledge that difficulties might arise from impecuniosity, but in his Lordship's view he was not then to limit the difficulties which he referred to procedure alone.

Furthermore, in the standard one-stop cases in which orders were made almost automatically, it was the risk that there would be an asset which was the procedural difficulty of enforcement which led to an order being made.

His Lordship concluded that where jurisdiction to make the order was established the financial position of the plaintiff might in an appropriate case be properly considered, not as a decisive or conclusive factor, but together with all relevant considerations in deciding what was the proper result.

In the present case, his Lordship concluded that some hesitation that the judge had failed to weigh the matter of impecuniosity as relevant in the exercise of his discretion. On that ground his discretion was flawed.

Accordingly exercising the discretion which his Lordship considered that he had to give proper weight to the judge's finding with regard to case of enforcement and he also bore in

mind passages to which he had already referred in the judgment in *Porzelack* and of the Master of the Rolls in *De Bary* that if a plaintiff was impecunious and an order for security might stifle his claim then that was a reason for refusing to make the order.

Nevertheless, the present case had special features.

Although the estate was seriously bankrupt, the trustees had sufficient assets to fund the litigation, and there was no hint that an order would stifle their claim.

They were also practising lawyers in Norway and no doubt could be relied on to act with complete rectitude. They had indicated that they would not obstruct enforcement of an order, however they were subject to the directions of the Bergen Court.

Moreover, they could not answer for creditors. The defendants' costs would rank as a priority claim, but there might be other competing priority claims.

The defendants had to defend the litigation and if success or doubt could be relied on to act with complete rectitude. They had indicated that they would not obstruct enforcement of an order, however they were subject to the directions of the Bergen Court.

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Moreover, they could not answer for creditors. The defendants' costs would rank as a priority claim, but there might be other competing priority claims.

Westminster City Council v Qureschi and Another
Before Mr Justice Aldous
[Judgment February 22]

Powers of compulsory purchase were duly exercised within the requisite period of three years by the City of Westminster, which the compulsory purchase orders became operative, by service of notices under section 3 of the Compulsory Purchase (Vesting Declarations) Act 1981.

Mr Justice Aldous so held in proceedings brought by the City of Westminster against Mr A. Qureschi and Barclays Bank plc.

Mr Andrew Collins, QC and Mr Robin Campbell for Westminster; Mr Margaret McCabe for Barclays Bank; Mr Qureschi was not represented and did not appear.

MR JUSTICE ALDOUS said that the originating summons dated March 30, 1989, had been duly served upon the defendant.

It sought declarations that powers of compulsory purchase of three properties, 210 Ashmore Road and 75 and 77 Elgin Avenue, all in Maida Vale, London were exercised prior to the expiration of three years from the dates on which the compulsory purchase orders became operative, that the City of Westminster had vested those properties in itself by virtue of Part III of the 1981 Act and that it was entitled to enter upon and take possession of the properties.

Copies of the orders had been served May 16, 1984, in respect of 210 Ashmore Road and on July 5, 1984, in respect of the Elgin Avenue properties.

The orders were later confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Environment and notices of such confirmation were published in local newspapers on July 19, 1985.

The defendant attempted in proceedings in the Divisional Court and the Court of Appeal to have the orders quashed, but that was dismissed in October 1987.

On February 1, 1988 Westminster served a statutory declaration concerning general vesting declarations and advised Mr Qureschi that a press notice of the statement would be advanced on February 11 and 18, 1988 and that it was done.

On September 30, 1988 the plaintiff executed vesting declarations vesting the prop-

Finance company bound by its undervaluation of debt due

Lombard North Central plc v Stobart
Before Lord Justice Lloyd and Mr Justice Bingham
[Judgment February 22]

A finance company that undertook to the purchaser of a motor car under a conditional sale agreement the amount of the settlement figure, and accepted a payment of that amount, could not thereafter recover the full amount due.

The unequivocal representation by the finance company, believed and acted on by the purchaser, estopped it from enforcing its legal rights under the contract.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the company, Lombard North Central plc, from the judgment of Judge Collins in the Southampton County Court in favour of the purchaser, Mr Vincent Stobart.

Mr Hodge Malek for the company; Mr Gary Fawcett for the purchaser.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD said that in April 1985 the purchaser entered into a conditional sale agreement with the company for a Volkswagen Karmann. The price was £7,600 and total price including interest was £10,946 payable over five years by 60 monthly instalments of £187.

The purchaser paid 23 instalments and then wanted money to go on holiday and decided to sell the car. In May 1987 he sold the car to a third party. The company was told on the telephone that the amount outstanding was £1,044 and had that confirmed in writing.

On June 4, 1987 the purchaser sold the car for £5,100 and paid

the settlement fee, then £1,003, to the company. On June 8 the company realised its mistake: the true amount outstanding was £5,814.

Those simple facts might have raised little or no legal dispute but the law of estoppel, but the argument was as simple as the facts.

Mr Malek, who appeared at short notice for the company and did not appear below, was content to refer the court to an Australian textbook, on equitable remedies and a single sentence from *Wickham Holdings Ltd v Brooke House Motors Ltd* (1967) 1 WLR 295.

Neither counsel thought it necessary to mention the authorities cited to the judge nor to refer to the leading textbook, *Spencer Bower and Turner, Estoppel by Representation*.

The judge had made two important findings: first, that the purchaser had genuinely believed that only £1,044 was outstanding and second, that he would not have sold the car had he known the true settlement figure. The judge found that when he would not otherwise have done, the purchaser had acted to his detriment.

There was an unequivocal representation by the company as to the amount outstanding coupled with a clear reliance by the purchaser. Was that sufficient to found an estoppel?

Submitting to the contrary, Mr Malek argued that the purchaser's reliance was unreasonable. But he cited no authority for the proposition that reliance used to be reasonable: it was sufficient that the purchaser's reliance was honest.

Further, Mr Malek reminded the court that estoppel was an equitable remedy and suggested

that the purchaser did not come with clean hands. By his deliberate act of concealment, it was said, he had gained a windfall of £4,000 which he should not be allowed to keep.

But why not? It was of the essence of equitable estoppel that a plaintiff was prevented from insisting upon his strict legal rights.

In every case it was a question whether it would be inequitable to allow a plaintiff to enforce his legal rights inconsistently with his representation.

That was the question the judge asked himself. It might have been answered either way. But there was no reason to disagree with the way it was answered by the judge.

Mr Justice Bingham agreed.

Solicitors: Mishcon de Royce Green, Keech & Co, Southampton.

On February 1, 1988 Westminster served a statutory declaration concerning general vesting declarations and advised Mr Qureschi that a press notice of the statement would be advanced on February 11 and 18, 1988 and that it was done.

On September 30, 1988 the plaintiff executed vesting declarations vesting the prop-

Human Rights Law Report

Compulsory confinement in mental hospital was in breach of Convention

Van der Leer v The Netherlands
(Case No 12/1988/156/210)
Before R. Ryssdal, President and Judges J. C. Remon, A. Spielmann, J. de Meyer, J. A. Carrillo Salcedo, N. Valicov and S. K. Martens
Registrar M.-A. Eissen
[Judgment February 21]

The European Court of Human Rights held, in a unanimous judgment, that Mrs Van der Leer's compulsory confinement in a psychiatric hospital in the Netherlands had been neither ordered in accordance with a procedure prescribed by law nor was it lawful within the meaning of article 5(1) of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Paragraphs 2 and 4 of article 5 had also been violated in that she had not been informed promptly of the order authorising her confinement or given the possibility of having the lawfulness of her deprivation of liberty reviewed speedily by a court.

Article 5 of the Convention provides:

"(1) Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be deprived of his liberty save in the following cases and in accordance with a procedure prescribed by law:...

"(e) the lawful detention of persons for the prevention of the spreading of infectious diseases, of persons of unsound mind, alcoholics or drug addicts or vagrants;...

"(2) Everyone who is arrested shall be informed promptly, in a language which he understands,

of the reasons for his arrest and of any charge against him.

"(4) Everyone who is deprived of his liberty by arrest or detention shall be entitled to take proceedings by which the lawfulness of his detention shall be decided speedily by a court and his release ordered if the detention is not lawful."

Mrs H. Van der Leer, a Dutch national, had been admitted to a psychiatric hospital in September 1983. She had already been committed on a number of previous occasions.

She remained there at first as a voluntary patient, but on November 18, 1983 the national court judge authorised her confinement for six months. She was neither heard before that decision nor informed of it.

Having learned of her confinement, she requested, in December 1983, to be released from hospital. Following the rejection of her request by the hospital, she applied in the same month to the district court, which on May 7, 1984 ordered her discharge.

The application which was lodged on May 18, 1984 was declared admissible by the European Commission of Human Rights on July 16, 1986. Having attempted unsuccessfully to achieve a friendly settlement, the Commission drew up a report on July 14, 1988 in which it summarised the facts and expressed the unanimous opinion that there had been a violation of article 5(1), (2) and (4) but not of article 6(1).

In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held as follows:

I. Alleged violation of article 5(1)

Mrs Van der Leer claimed that the order authorising her confinement had not been made in compliance with a procedure prescribed by law, which rendered her detention unlawful. In particular, the national court judge should have heard her first.

In the Court's view, the main issue in the case was whether the disputed detention was lawful, including whether it complied with a procedure prescribed by law.

The Convention here referred back essentially to national law and laid down the obligations to conform to the substantive and procedural rules thereof, but required, in addition, that any deprivation of liberty should be consistent with the purpose of article 5, namely to protect individuals from arbitrariness.

Notwithstanding the requirements of the 1954 *Ministry III* Persons Act (section 17(3) of which stipulated that a judge was obliged to hear a person whose confinement was sought unless he concluded from a reasoned medical declaration by a doctor specialising in mental and nervous disorders that that would be devoid of purpose or medically inadvisable), the national court judge failed to hear Mrs Van der Leer before authorising her confinement, although the legal conditions under which such a hearing

might be dispensed with were not satisfied.

At the very least he should have stated, in his decision, the reasons which led him to the conclusion that his opinion in this respect. The government accepted that.

There had therefore been a violation of article 5(1) in that regard.

II. Alleged violation of article 5(2)

The applicant also complained that she had not been informed immediately that an order authorising her confinement had been made. She had only become aware of it by accident, when she had been placed in isolation.

The government conceded that Mrs Van der Leer should have been promptly informed of the decision depriving her of liberty on the basis of which they had been arrested or detained. There were therefore no grounds for excluding the facts from the scope of paragraph 2.

The applicant was in hospital to receive treatment as a voluntary patient. It was not until November 28, 1983 that she learned, when she was placed in isolation, that she was no longer free to leave when she wished because of an order made ten days previously. The government did not contest that.

It therefore appeared that neither the manner in which she was informed of the measures depriving her of liberty, nor the time it took to communicate that information to her, con-

spond to the requirements of article 5(2).

In fact it was all the more important to bring the measures in question to her attention since she was already in a psychiatric hospital prior to the national court judge's decision, which did not change her situation in fundamental terms.

Accordingly there had been a violation of article 5(2).

III. Alleged violation of article 5(4)

Mrs Van der Leer claimed in the first place to be the victim of an infringement of her right to be informed promptly and adequately of the facts and the grounds on which her detention was based in order to be able to institute the proceedings referred to in this provision.

Second, she argued that, in as much as the district court did not deliver its decision on the lawfulness of the contested order until five months after the proceedings had been instituted, it had not decided the question speedily.

The review of lawfulness required under article 5(4) was not in this instance incorporated in the proceedings for release, the applicant of her liberty because, before authorising the detention, the judge had failed to ensure that one of the fundamental procedural guarantees applying in the field of deprivation of liberty was complied with.

The Court had already determined, in the context of article 5(2), the question of the

information which should have been communicated to Mrs Van der Leer. It did not consider it necessary to re-examine it in the light of article 5(4).

On the issue of the compliance with the requirement of speediness, it observed that there were certain divergences between the views of the participants in the proceedings as regards the method of determining the period to be taken into consideration.

In guaranteeing to persons arrested or detained a right to institute proceedings, article 5(4) also presumed their right, following the institution of such proceedings, to a speedy judicial decision terminating their deprivation of liberty if it proved unlawful.

The proceedings lasted five months. In the specific circumstances of the case, the Court considered that lapse of time was excessive.

Mrs Van der Leer stressed in her application for release, the judge had not heard her before authorizing her detention.

Moreover, the institution of proceedings might have been significantly retarded by the failure to comply with the obligation to inform the person concerned of the measure taken against her. There were therefore compelling reasons for avoiding any dilatoriness.

On the government's own admission, the public prosecutor, to whom the matter was referred on December 20, 1983,

did not transmit the file to the District Court of The Hague until February 6, 1984.

In the absence of any grounds justifying that delay, the Court found that there had been a violation of article 5(4).

IV. Alleged violation of article 6(1)

Before the Commission the applicant also relied on article 6(1), but at the hearing in September 1989 she withdrew that complaint. The Court did not consider it necessary to examine that question of its own motion.

V. Just satisfaction under article 50

Mrs Van der Leer claimed, in addition to reimbursement of 30,997.50 Dutch guilders in respect of costs and lawyers' fees, the payment of 10,000 guilders for pecuniary and non-pecuniary damage.

Making an equitable assessment in accordance with article 50, the Court awarded her the overall sum of 15,000 guilders in respect of all the heads of claim.

Strasbourg

Correction

In *Powell and Rayner v United Kingdom* (The Times February 22) the second paragraph of the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights should have read:

Nonetheless, the applicants argued that the Court possessed jurisdiction to consider alleged violations of articles 8 and 6, independently of the alleged violation of article 13.

A prestige motoring magazine award should put the British car-maker on the road to recovering its reputation

The Rover company really did not need telling that its little 200 series was a good car, but confirmation from the outside



Day says he does not care because he is moving upmarket to a position in which Rover can sell

There are plenty of disgruntled customers who will not wait, but Rover can only offer sympathy; it refuses to increase assembly line

is wood-veneer trim, surely something that only goes into executive cars?

Surprisingly, recent magazine

customers towards the 214 model with their new K-series engine developed in Britain and also made at Longbridge.

So maybe Day's time has come. Perhaps the 10 years are over and Rover is ready to win back its reputation.

SERVICES

There is also an easy-to-understand outline of why unleaded has been introduced, how engines work, why they can or cannot use

Unfortunately, Autodata was unable to gain widespread distribution through retail stores. It is now available at a substantial reduction on the £2.99 retail price. Send a cheque (made out to Autodata Ltd) or postal order to *The Times* special offer, Autodata Ltd, Prior's Way, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 2HP. The £1.95 price includes postage and packing.



Fabulous Ferrari set for a record

Modena factory in northern Italy. One of the last of the front-engined racers, the 315S has 3.8 litres — enough power to give Ferrari its fourth world championship victory. Drivers such as Mike Hawthorn have sat behind the wheel. A price of about \$8 million is being suggested. This would be well over the previous record \$5.5 million, paid for a Bugatti Royale, but still below the \$10 million spent by a Japanese businessman on a Ferrari 250 GTO last year.

1. **Introduction**

■ Makes Cars, the tiny kit-car company, which I reported was in liquidation, has been saved. The buyer is Pastiche Cars, a "market niche" manufacturer, which plans to move production from Corby Northamptonshire, to its Rotherham headquarters, and increase total production from 300 cars a year to about 450.

■ A new computer link between eight leading insurers could lead to a 10 per cent drop in premiums. Policy Master, a Midlands company, which developed the system, says 40 per cent of quotations are sent back because of costly errors.

ROADWISE

vision advertising, based on *The Graduate* movie (which features Mrs Robinson), she bought one. A visit to the local garage for a quick repair proved tragic – the car was stolen. The garage gave her the appropriately named Miss Robinson a demonstrator to ease her pain.

■ Mercedes-Benz drivers are to get a breath of fresh air, thanks to a new filter system being fitted to the company's saloons. The filters take smog, dust and odours out of the outside air before they reach the passenger cabin.

Safer driving on the Continent

One of the most dangerous aspects of driving a right-hand-drive car on the continent is overtaking.

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WHAT CAR? VERDICT (April 1982):
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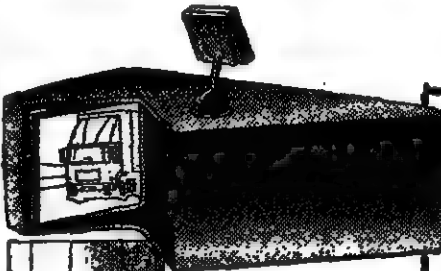
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TELEVIEWED SPORT

Viewers may force the Government to alter plan

By Richard Evans

The Government could suffer electorally if television viewers are prevented from seeing big events on BBC and ITV, Michael Checkland, the director general of the BBC, said yesterday.

His warning came only hours after Government ministers had indicated that MPs might persuade the Government to amend controversial plans to sell off television rights to 10 "listed" sporting events to the highest bidder.

The auction plan in the Broadcasting Bill would mean that Sky and British Satellite Broadcasting would be able to buy exclusive rights to such prestigious occasions as the Wimbledon tennis championships, the FA Cup final and the Derby. The BBC and ITV would not be able to screen them.

Checkland told a broadcasting conference in London: "Viewers and voters in the United Kingdom will not be impressed if, like the recent Tyson v Douglas heavyweight fight which aroused so much interest, they are ever unable to see major sport on terrestrial services available to all."

Sky Television, which screened the fight, firmly refused a BBC offer to show it on Sportsnight several days after the live transmission, Checkland said.

He denied that the BBC's concern about listed events

was self-serving or an institutional knee-jerk reaction. "Let me stress that we are not seeking the exclusive right to show these events live," he said.

"We would simply like to ensure that, as events of national significance and appeal, they remain accessible to the nation as a whole as well as newly available to satellite and cable services rightly bringing new sources of income to sports rights holders."

"It is a question of public policy and the interests of viewers. We have now all heard what happened last year with Wimbledon. Both the singles champions were German, yet only half of their compatriots had the opportunity to witness their achievement."

David Mellor, the Home Office minister responsible for broadcasting, is well aware that the proposal to sell off sports rights to the highest bidder could prove politically unpopular.

However, if Conservative MPs on the Broadcasting Bill Committee are sufficiently vocal the Government might back down.

Among the 10 events of national importance to which the BBC and ITV have access are the Boat Race, the Grand National, the FA Cup final, the Derby and the Wimbledon tennis championships.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

New venture put on ice for a year

By Richard Wetherell

Three days after announcing a reorganized schedule, the International League of American Football (ILAF) has decided to postpone its first programme until 1991. The ILAF season was expected to start in April with teams based in Amsterdam, Barcelona, Birmingham, Helsinki, London, Milan, Munich and Rome. The number was reduced to six when the Italian teams dropped out because of the clash with football's World Cup.

The delay is caused by "logistical difficulties" in obtaining work permits for the American players and coaches, and problems over television coverage in Europe.

Steve Gerlach, a League spokesman, said: "I don't think it was a lack of preparation, but things we couldn't foresee in logistics and paperwork."

Deposits have been put down for the use of the venues and contracts concerning the grounds will have to be reorganized. The players and coaches have been invited to get in touch with the ILAF if they wish to remain on the "active list".

Their contracts will be settled. The decision to postpone was taken by the commissioners, Carroll Huntress, and the owners on Tuesday night. "I think it was a smart business decision. I think that we can get a lot more support and exposure and just do ourselves a lot of good in terms of preparation," Gerlach said.

The tight schedule has not helped. The European try-outs started last month and the final team practices were expected to begin on April 1. The first match was to be played at Munich 10 days later.

Bob Green, the business manager of Birmingham Bears, said: "This is disappointing news. We were well prepared for our opening match against Helsinki Blue Fox at Villa Park on Easter Monday."

Although money has never appeared to be a problem for the league, three anonymous donors who have pledged enough cash for two years, to the cost of the delay is likely to run to millions of dollars on top of the substantial sums already spent.

BASEBALL

Lockout continues as talks reach stalemate

New York (AP) — The chief negotiator for the major-league owners believes positions are hardening in the sport's labour dispute, as the spring-training lockout completes its second week.

The executive director of the Player Relations Committee, Chuck O'Connor, said clubs thought the latest spring training could start, without delaying the regular season, would be on or about March 12.

"We have worked on the idea of generally three weeks," O'Connor said. "I'm not aware that we have precisely set a date."

The union chief, Donald Fenn, still in Phoenix after a meeting of the players' executive board, said he had only minor contact with management on Wednesday, and said the next move was up to the owners. He was scheduled to brief players in Los Angeles yesterday and in Tampa, Florida, today.

Talks have reached stalemate over eligibility for salary arbitration. The union wants it rolled back to two years' service, while management insists that it remain at three years. Discussions broke off on Monday.

The commissioner, Fay Vincent, said he had spent last weekend attempting to find a compromise solution, but that the union said it would not move off its demand for a rollback to two years.

O'Connor said there has probably been a hardening of positions. He said: "I think that when owners read headlines that say, 'Baseball Players Say They Won't Concede,' they say: 'If they won't concede, we won't concede.'"

"When you say, 'We won't concede' or 'We won't concede' or 'It has to be our way,' you have to expect the reaction from the other side has to be just as hard."

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View from the observatory of college sporting phenomena



The guiding star looks down: Bachmann, the American who is a shining light in the fund-raising firmament of Oxford, ascends the spiral staircase of the observatory at Green College

A Yank at Oxford who is doing the honours as a campaigner

By John Goodbody

Eleven of the 13 sports in the Norwich Union Varsity Games will take place at Oxford this weekend. The swimming has to be held at High Wycombe and the water polo at a public baths in Cambridge because neither university possesses its own swimming pool.

It is amazing that the two universities, with their long tradition of sporting excellence, should be without such a basic facility, not just for the competitive sport but for recreational and fitness activities.

Cambridge is hoping to have a pool as part of a planned new centre in the west of the city, while Oxford is still recovering from the 1970s, when it had to abort its proposed pool at Iliffe Road because of a combination of planning regulations and the rise in building prices.

Enter Larry Bachmann, an American and devoted Oxfordophile, who has been throwing his experience and expertise behind the fund-raising campaign for Oxford and particularly for Oxford sport.

Bachmann persuaded Cameron Mackintosh, the theatrical producer, to fund for almost £2 million the programme of a professorship of contemporary theatre at Oxford. This year's first visiting profes-

or has been Stephen Sondheim.

Bachmann is also a tennis enthusiast and the first non-Commonwealth citizen to be elected a member of the All England Club at Wimbledon. He led the fund-raising for the university tennis club to raise the £75,000 to refurbish the courts and to erect a clubhouse.

He regrets the lack of support from the university for sport, which has arisen because of the autonomy of the colleges. This restricts adequate funding for many of those sports, including those taking place this weekend, such as shooting, volleyball, pistol shooting and judo, which will be staging its sixtieth annual competition.

"This is a shame, not only because of the tradition of sporting excellence but also because of the well-being of the students," he said.

Rowing and rugby union are self-sufficient and some of the outdoor facilities are superb. Colleges usually support the outdoor activities of their undergraduates far more generously than in making additional contributions to university funds for sport.

A committee of five dons, who examined Oxford sport in the 1970s, concluded that "those who represent this university receive less help than those who represent 'provincial' universities". Little has changed.

Oxford has already recognized that more fund-raising for non-sporting projects must come from its graduates, as is commonplace in the United States. Bachmann is supporting the drive to get extra money for sport, particularly the swimming pool, better transport facilities and a director of sport, who would work alongside Jim Railton, the professional secretary of the committee for sports facilities and also the committee which funds more than 50 sports clubs.

Bachmann applauds the initiative of the Rhodes Trust, which has given £250,000 for a new all-weather track at Iliffe Road, where the Varsity Games relays will be run on Sunday and, of course, the Master of Pembroke College, ran the first sub-four-minute mile in 1954.

Now he is determined to find a benefactor, who will give £3.1 million for the pool in return for using his name on the building.

"Swimming should be an amenity for everyone," he said. "Not only is it the best therapeutic sport, it is also vital that the 2,000 undergraduates, who row in the Summer Eights, can swim properly. Too many swim inadequately. One day there may be an accident and a person's life is worth more than the money to construct the pool."



Leaving the world gasping: Banister becomes the world's first sub-four-minute mile man at Iliffe Road in May 1954

ATHLETICS

Nerurkar takes gamble on world championship place

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

Richard Nerurkar, the English national champion, has left the British selectors facing the prospect of having to choose between him and three Commonwealth Games athletes when they pick their senior men's team for the world cross-country championships, to be held in Aix-les-Bains, France, on March 24. Nerurkar has decided to miss the trial race on Sunday week and to rely on his considerable achievements of the winter to secure his place.

Nerurkar was first of 2,200 runners in the annual highlight of the clubman's season, the national, in Leeds, on Saturday. Yet, while Nerurkar takes a chance on selection, some of those who finished behind him can guarantee their British vests for France by finishing in the first six in the trial.

The risk Nerurkar is taking is that Tim Hutchings, Eamonn Martin and Gary Staines, all recently back from Auckland where they ran in the 10,000 metres, have claims to the three discretionary places in the team of nine. It is the sore throat and stomach cramps which Hutchings has been suffering this week.

Britain have lost two more athletes from their team for the European indoor championships in Glasgow this weekend. The Commonwealth shot champion, Myrtle Anne, has influenza and the former United Kingdom long jump champion, Mary Berkeley, a leg injury.

Britain will still field a team of 46, their largest for the

trial and the world championships in the space of a month. The British Amateur Athletic Board's decision in November to select three and guarantee places to the first six in the trial was, according to the Board spokesman, Tony Ward, taken on the recommendation of the UK cross-country commission "because they were the specialists".

The recommendation of Frank Dick, the national director of coaching for track and field, for a 4-5 split was rejected. That decision, though appearing reasonable at the time, will be regretted if Hutchings misses the trial. It is unthinkable that either Hutchings, last year's world championship runner-up, or Martin, the Commonwealth 10,000 metres champion and a leading British cross-country runner through the 1980s, will be omitted. That would mean a British team going to France without either the English champion or Staines, who was the second Briton behind Hutchings last year in fourth place.

It is unfortunate, too, that the new champion club of England, Vally Harriers, will not seek representation on the British team. Kevin Foster, who was fourth in the national, will not contest the trial, concentrating instead on his preparations for the AIT London Marathon trial month. Geoff Turnbull, who was fifth, is turning towards the track; and Paul Cuskin, who was ninth, considers the heavy going of the Whitehead Harriers trial not only for him but as a test for the faster tracks of Europe.

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A difficult prospect for Oxford

By Joyce Whitehead

Oxford and Cambridge meet in the women's University match in the Parks, Oxford, tomorrow.

Cambridge, after a few years in the doldrums, came back strongly last year to defeat Oxford 3-0. They have a relatively experienced side, and seven of them have been selected for the London/Oxford/Cambridge Universities squad.

They have just one first-year player, Suzanne Owens, who is a defender. Oxford sport an unbeaten record this term.

Oxford field a goalkeeper, Robyn Bismestock, from Canada, and two graduates in their attack, Anna Williamson, from New Zealand, and Kate Selway, of Bristol University.

They have two first-year players, Alex Cookson and Heather Wakefield.

Cambridge University 2nd XI (captain) and 3rd XI (captain) are: (Goalkeeper) Kate Selway, (Defenders) Anna Williamson, Kate Selway, Heather Wakefield, (Forwards) Alex Cookson, Robyn Bismestock, Suzanne Owens, (Goalkeeper) Kate Selway, (Defenders) Anna Williamson, Kate Selway, Heather Wakefield, (Forwards) Alex Cookson, Robyn Bismestock, Suzanne Owens.

Oxford University 1st XI (captain) and 2nd XI (captain) are: (Goalkeeper) Kate Selway, (Defenders) Anna Williamson, Kate Selway, Heather Wakefield, (Forwards) Alex Cookson, Robyn Bismestock, Suzanne Owens, (Goalkeeper) Kate Selway, (Defenders) Anna Williamson, Kate Selway, Heather Wakefield, (Forwards) Alex Cookson, Robyn Bismestock, Suzanne Owens.

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HOCKEY

Slough can clinch first league title

By Joyce Whitehead

Slough women's national league championship if they beat Leicester, their closest rivals, tomorrow at Bisham Abbey. The Berkshire side have the maximum 24 points from six matches, while Leicester, in second place, have 22 from seven games.

Slough is high at Slough after their silver medal at the European indoor club championship last weekend, the best performance by an English club in the competition.

Slough have strengthened their attack by bringing Sheila Cornwallis and Marcia Redwood into the squad at the expense of Debbie Stubbs.

In their efforts to pull away from relegation, Oxford are playing an experimental side of young players against Exmouth, their fellow strugglers. Kathryn MacDonald, who has been named in the England under-18 team, will be at left link.

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In their efforts to pull away from relegation, Oxford are playing an experimental side of young players against Exmouth, their fellow strugglers. Kathryn MacDonald, who has been named in the England under-18 team, will be at left link.

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BOWLS

Internationals on hand to help Torbay

By Gordon Allan

Torbay, with two internationals, John Evans and Len Bowden, and six of their 1981 title-winning team, play Dartford in the first round of the Anglia Secure Homes national club championship at Havering tomorrow. City of Ely play Newcastle in the other match.

TORBAY: Bowls: 1. Evans, 2. Bowden, 3. Evans, 4. Bowden, 5. Evans, 6. Bowden, 7. Evans, 8. Bowden, 9. Evans, 10. Bowden, 11. Evans, 12. Bowden, 13. Evans, 14. Bowden, 15. Evans, 16. Bowden, 17. Evans, 18. Bowden, 19. Evans, 20. Bowden, 21. Evans, 22. Bowden, 23. Evans, 24. Bowden, 25. Evans, 26. Bowden, 27. Evans, 28. Bowden, 29. Evans, 30. Bowden, 31. Evans, 32. Bowden, 33. Evans, 34. Bowden, 35. Evans, 36. Bowden, 37. Evans, 38. Bowden, 39. Evans, 40. Bowden, 41. Evans, 42. Bowden, 43. Evans, 44. Bowden, 45. Evans, 46. Bowden, 47. Evans, 48. Bowden, 49. Evans, 50. Bowden, 51. Evans, 52. Bowden, 53. Evans, 54. Bowden, 55. Evans, 56. Bowden, 57. Evans, 58. Bowden, 59. Evans, 60. Bowden, 61. Evans, 62. Bowden, 63. Evans, 64. Bowden, 65. Evans, 66. Bowden, 67. Evans, 68. Bowden, 69. Evans, 70. Bowden, 71. Evans, 72. Bowden, 73. Evans, 74. Bowden, 75. Evans, 76. Bowden, 77. Evans, 78. Bowden, 79. Evans, 80. Bowden, 81. Evans, 82. Bowden, 83. Evans, 84. Bowden, 85. Evans, 86. Bowden, 87. Evans, 88. Bowden, 89. Evans, 90. Bowden, 91. Evans, 92. Bowden, 93. Evans, 94. Bowden, 95. Evans, 96. Bowden, 97. Evans, 98. Bowden, 99. Evans, 100. Bowden, 101. Evans, 102. Bowden, 103. Evans, 104. Bowden, 105. Evans, 106. Bowden, 107. Evans, 108. Bowden, 109. Evans, 110. Bowden, 111. Evans, 112. Bowden, 113. Evans, 114. Bowden, 115. Evans, 116. Bowden, 117. Evans, 118. Bowden, 119. Evans, 120. Bowden, 121. Evans, 122. Bowden, 123. Evans, 124. Bowden, 125. Evans, 126. Bowden, 127. Evans, 128. Bowden, 129. Evans, 130. Bowden, 131. Evans, 132. Bowden, 133. Evans, 134. Bowden, 135. Evans, 136. Bowden, 137. Evans, 138. Bowden, 139. Evans, 140. Bowden, 141. Evans, 142. Bowden, 143. Evans, 144. Bowden, 145. Evans, 146. Bowden, 147. Evans, 148. Bowden, 149. Evans, 150. Bowden, 151. Evans, 152. Bowden, 153. Evans, 154. Bowden, 155. Evans, 156. Bowden, 157. Evans, 158. Bowden, 159. Evans, 160. Bowden, 161. Evans, 162. Bowden, 163. Evans, 164. Bowden, 165. Evans, 166. Bowden, 167. Evans, 168. Bowden, 169. Evans, 170. Bowden, 171. Evans, 172. Bowden, 173. Evans, 174. Bowden, 175. Evans, 176. Bowden, 177. Evans, 178. Bowden, 179. Evans, 180. Bowden, 181. Evans, 182. Bowden, 183. Evans, 184. Bowden, 185. Evans, 186. Bowden, 187. Evans, 188. Bowden, 189. Evans, 190. Bowden, 191. Evans, 192. Bowden, 193. Evans, 194. Bowden, 195. Evans, 196. Bowden, 197. Evans, 198. Bowden, 199. Evans, 200. Bowden, 201. Evans, 202. Bowden, 203. Evans, 204. Bowden, 205. Evans, 206. Bowden, 207. Evans, 208. Bowden, 209. Evans, 210. Bowden, 211. Evans, 212. Bowden, 213. Evans, 214. Bowden, 215. Evans, 216. Bowden, 217. Evans, 218. Bowden, 219. Evans, 220. Bowden, 221. Evans, 222. Bowden, 223. Evans, 224. Bowden, 225. Evans, 226. Bowden, 227. Evans, 228. Bowden, 229. Evans, 230. Bowden, 231. Evans, 232. Bowden, 233. Evans, 234. Bowden, 235. Evans, 236. Bowden, 237. Evans, 238. Bowden, 239. Evans, 240. Bowden, 241. Evans, 242. Bowden, 243. Evans, 244. Bowden, 245. Evans, 246. Bowden, 247. Evans, 248. Bowden, 249. Evans, 250. Bowden, 251. Evans, 252. Bowden, 253. Evans, 254. Bowden, 255. Evans, 256. Bowden, 257. Evans, 258. Bowden, 259. Evans, 260. Bowden, 261. Evans, 262. Bowden, 263. Evans, 264. Bowden, 265. Evans, 266. Bowden, 267. Evans, 268. Bowden, 269. Evans, 270. Bowden, 271. Evans, 272. Bowden, 273. Evans, 274. Bowden, 275. Evans, 276. Bowden, 277. Evans, 278. Bowden, 279. Evans, 280. Bowden, 281. Evans, 282. Bowden, 283. Evans, 284. Bowden, 285. Evans, 286.

RUGBY UNION: QUIET FARMER STEPS UP FROM THE NEATH SCHOOL TO GRADUATE ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE BUT REMAINS TRUE TO PEMBROKESHIRE ROOTS

Relief for Irish as injury jinx relents

Williams earns his reward for standing up to strain

By Gerald Davies

By George Ace

Ken Reid, the Ireland team manager, was relieved yesterday when his men came through their second training session in two days unscathed.

"The way things have been going this season, that must be a bonus," he said. Since the match against New Zealand last November, injuries have taken their toll on Donal Lenihan, the captain, Michael Kiernan, Jimmy McCoy and Steve Smith.

For the game in Paris tomorrow, McCoy, Smith and Brendan Mullin are unavailable, and Philip Matthews and John McDonald have withdrawn, Matthews suffering from a virus and McDonald from the torn calf muscle that he picked up in the final 10 minutes of a training session on Sunday.

"One thing we can be grateful for is our four-match close-season tour of North America," Reid said. "With only a few exceptions, all of the team in action against France were on that trip. They know the score, and despite our many setbacks, morale is extremely high."

"France are no great shakes this season and the two hammerings handed out by England and Scotland will have done their morale no good."

Lenihan thinks the first 20 minutes will be crucial, while Jimmy Davidson, the coach, is wary of the last 20. Most observers believe that the middle 40 might be a little tricky, too, so far as the Irish are concerned.

Brian Williams, who plays his first game for Wales at loose-head prop tomorrow, lives in the sticks, as they say, in what was once Pembrokeshire but has now been absorbed by the legislators into the amorphous Dyfed.

The glib always refer to the old county as the "little England beyond Wales". If it is true at all, then it is only half the truth. There are those, admittedly, from "down below", as the southern portion is affectionately called, who speak English with almost a West Country burr, while those north of the A40 and presided over by the Preseli range of mountains speak Welsh.

Williams travels at least twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, along the narrow roads and sunken lanes of these parts to train with the team of the moment, Neath. He does not mind the training, it is the travelling that takes its toll. He can take the physical side of things, it is the tedium of the car journey that is so wearying. But he does it nowadays because he believes it is worth it.

It was not always so. Williams had been a reluctant rugby player. He did not play at school although there was

plenty of rugby in his family; his brother played for the Welsh schools. It was not until he got to Gelli Aur (Golden Grove) Agricultural College in the heart of the Towy Valley that he had his arm twisted to play on free Thursday afternoons.

"But really I didn't want to play," he said. "So I played truant instead. I preferred to be getting on with the farming chores. I missed the rugby purposely and did the mucking-out instead. Then the authorities found out and I was forced back to play again."

He went to Narberth Youth with what seemed to be the same reluctance and played in the second row. Then, he graduated to the first team. When a prop was injured, he moved to fill his place and stayed there. He played for Pembrokeshire against Japan in 1983 and had a good game in front of the new men at Neath, Ron Waldron and Brian Thomas. These two returned to see him play against the South Glamorgan Institute at Tenby. They tried, there and then, to persuade him to join Neath. Williams did not want to. "Too far to travel," he said. And he hung on to that line until his brother persuaded him to change it. He went.

And you stayed? "Yes," he said. "There were four other farmers in the squad. And that made me feel at home." Neath, who were by now seriously on the move, had been casting their net widely for recruits and moving into territory, like Pembrokeshire, which hitherto had been Llanelly's preserve.

Williams farms 60 acres of a handsome corner of the world which others from elsewhere seem increasingly to fancy, too, but who seem careless of the culture and the language that is inseparable from the land. He is sensitive to the breaking up of the essential Welshness of the "filiur sgwar" — the familiar patch — the square mile, as it were, of a close community. For the moment, at least, to be overheard hereabouts talking in anything but Welsh would be strange indeed.

At 6ft 1in and, astonishingly, only 13st 10lb, Williams does not conform to the modern idea of a prop. But to Neath he does. They do not want middleweight scrummagers. They want mobile players who contribute elsewhere. And to Williams it simply does not matter at all. "Quick channel for the ball is the Neath way, and then an extra man in the running. That's the way the club want

it. I'm happy with that," he said. Tomorrow's Welsh front row — the first since the famous Pontypool trio to have come from the one club — looks to be easily thrown off balance. If Pugh resembles a Toby jug, then Williams is a Lowry figure.

"Mucking, that's my strongest point. I get the ball from others. And my farming background helps. Pulling is more our game than pushing. In calving, mucking, bailing, we're more pullers than pushers, you know," he said, with his penetrating stare and a mischievous smile.

The sun shone on Dan Dderwen Farm. The peaks silhouetted the sky. Dogs barked in the spick and span yard, there were noisy rooks in the nearby woods and an ordinary man in his bespattered overalls got on with his job. On Saturday, at the National Stadium, in the inflated world of a sporting contest, sensational and colourful, often made synthetic by television, millions will not understand that rugby players have a day job — to which on Sunday Williams must return. Amid the ballyhoo it will be made not to matter. And yet, somehow, it should.



Shedding blood for the cause: Williams, of Neath, ready to give his all to lift Welsh fortunes

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Sides squaring up over rule changes

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

The opening shots in the battle between the largely British doves and the largely antipodean hawks over relaxation of the amateur regulations are already being fired.

The two sides will come together in London later this month, when the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) will consider a new set of regulations, subject to the necessary three-quarters majority being achieved, and it is that majority that will become the subject of intensive lobbying.

England, in the form of the Rugby Football Union, are beating the traditional drum, and it is assumed they will have the support of Scotland and Ireland. It is likely that, within the next 10 days, the RFU will make known, in more detail, its views on how the IRFB discussion document should be amended or, in places, vetoed.

In Australia, however, the document has been welcomed as a blueprint to take rugby union into the 21st century. In particular, Australian officials embrace the "compensation for financial disadvantage" clause, which would permit them to reimburse players preparing for international rugby at home, as opposed to tour allowances.

Norbert Byrne, from Queensland, who was elected Australia's newest IRFB representative last year, said: "One of the main spectres hanging over the home unions is that of broken-time payments. If that had been handled properly in 1893, the Rugby Football League might never have been formed."

"All they wanted was the pay they were losing. It was a just claim then and it is a just claim now. If someone takes time off to play or prepare for international rugby, they have to suffer loss of pay. If they are not in the position of having that made up by their employer, then they have to forfeit part or all of their annual leave. In that case,

the only ones who can play international rugby are those who can afford it, so it pays to be an elite."

Byrne believes that the IRFB proposals are the discretion given to individual unions, particularly those in receipt of large grants for internationals, to act according to local circumstances. He adheres to the popular line that players should not be paid for playing, but adds that it should not cost them money to represent their country.

Nor does he think there should be any application to a lower representative level — in example, under-21 or B rugby. "There are so many senior internationals played now the time taken in preparation probably comes to three weeks of their working lives (which is the minimum period for tour abroad to attract the full IRFB daily allowance). If it is right to pay a hardship allowance for 1 day or over, why is it not right at home?"

The exercise of discretion though, is hazardous in its extreme, because if differing practices are adopted from country to country, the players whose unions stick to the traditional approach are bound to feel themselves discriminated against. Indeed, Sir Ewart Bell, chairman of the amateur committee of the IRFB, which drew up the discussion document, is on record as hoping for regulations which will be universally agreed and enforced.

The other important element is the situation of all those other countries, outside the eight IRFB members, who seek to participate in international rugby, at whatever level, but whose finances do not permit them to recompense players even if they wanted to. It may be that their input will have a significant bearing on the board's deliberations.

Swansea men feature in much-changed pack

By David Hands

Wales have made substantial changes to their pack for this evening's universities international against Scotland at Newbridge. After losing 13-7 to the English Universities last month, only three forwards survive, and one of the newcomers, Dinlle Francis, takes over the captaincy.

Swansea, the UAU finalists, who beat Oxford University on Wednesday, supply five of the pack, including Francis. Locke, the Cardiff hooker, has English qualifications, as have several members of the Scottish XV, whose ranks include Hopley at centre, a member of England's successful 1988 schools side.

Jeffrey will be captain of Border party

Eric Paxton, the Kelso flanker who has become a recognized specialist at sevens, will make his seventh visit to the Cathay Pacific/Hong Kong Bank tournament at the end of this month as a member of the Scottish Border Club party, which will join Wales and the Barbarians as Britain's representatives this year (David Hands writes).

For Paxton, aged 32, it may be his last visit in a team led by his club colleague John Jeffrey, one of six capped players. If Kelso were the outstanding sevens team in Scotland in the mid-1980s, Melrose and Jed-Forest now dispute that position, with the latter contributing three players, including Ronnie Kirkpatrick, last year's Scotland under-21 flanker and captain.

The Borders, who are grouped with Japan and Sri Lanka, will be managed by Bob Burrell and coached by Keith Anderson, both from Gala.

SCOTTISH BORDER PARTY: A Stanger (hooker), B Baird (flanker), H Hogg (lock), C Chalmers (scrummer), G Armstrong (scrummer), J Jeffrey (flanker), I Gormley (flanker), R Kirkpatrick (lock), E Paxton (flanker).

The Scots have lost the services of Hay, the Edinburgh stand-off half, who is unlikely to play for several months because of vertebrae problems.

WELSH UNIVERSITIES: R Jones (scrummer), J Davidson (scrummer), P Hogg (flanker), T Michael (flanker), K Price (scrummer), A Moore (scrummer), I Blackett (scrummer), Locke (scrummer), D Francis (scrummer), D Cooke (scrummer), M Lawrie (flanker), M Bennett (flanker), Phillips (scrummer).

SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES: S Hogg (scrummer), A Aulley-Jones (scrummer), P Freeman (scrummer), D Walker (flanker), J Watson (flanker), R Brown (flanker), S McGilchrist (scrummer), J Bell (scrummer), A Stewart (scrummer), H Hogg (scrummer), C Hogg (scrummer), A Snow (scrummer), J Chang (scrummer), K Dobson (scrummer).

Moseley limit attendance to 8,000 for Bath

By Michael Austin

Moseley have set a crowd limit of 8,000 for their Pilkington Cup semi-final against Bath at The Reddings on March 2 and a capacity gate would bring the club record receipts of £3,000. The ground can house 4,000 but Moseley have reduced the figure in the interest of safety.

Warwickshire have appointed Steve Hall, a full back from Bakers' Butts, a Coventry junior club, as their captain for the Toshiba County Championship semi-final against Luton at Orrell tomorrow.

Following their defeat in the Pilkington Cup on Saturday, Leicester have dropped Wayne Richards and Alec Gissing, both scrum half, for the game. Rugby tomorrow.

Nottingham are likely to be both their regular wings of season. Steve Hackney, an Ealing B player, is going to Cambridge University. Harvey Thorneycroft will be working in London.

Island Set looks booked for encore

By Maudaria (Michael Phillips)

Champion Hurdle hope Island Set can draw further attention to his each-way prospects at Cheltenham in 11 days time by winning the White Rabbits Hurdle at Haydock Park again this afternoon.

After beating his solitary rival, Old Dundalk, in the corresponding race 12 months ago, the Kevin Morgan-trained horse then went on to Presbury Park where he split Sondrio and Cruising Altitude in the finish for the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices Hurdle.

Interestingly, he again had Cruising Altitude behind at Wincanton eight days ago when they were both beaten by Kribensis in the Kingwell Hurdle.

The reason for this relatively swift response is the fact that still being an entire Island Set is notoriously hard to get fit, just as he was when trained on the Flat by Luca Cumani.

Island Set's first race this season was in Ireland on February 10 when he finished only fifth in the Wessel Cable Champion Hurdle, 39 lengths behind the winner, Nomadic Way.

He has improved even half as much since Wincanton, as he did between those races, the outcome of today's race

should be a formality with Milford Quay and Sayprae filling the minor places.

With the National Hunt Festival in mind, it will also be interesting to see how Bitter Buck (2.15) and Rifle Range (4.15) perform.

Release both contest the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices' Hurdle they will meet at level weights.

Impressive that Re-Release was at Nottingham first time out over hurdles (she easily accounted for yesterday's Ludlow winner Dwaadme), she should still not manage to give 6lb to a mare of Bitter Buck's calibre now.

Having finished a close second to Sondrio and Riverhead already, Bitter Buck rates a nap.

Rifle Range, who missed a race at Nottingham last month because he knocked a splint, will now have his warm-up for the Sun Alliance Novices Chase in the Tweedle Dum Novices' Chase. Having jumped successfully around Haydock already, it should be a perfect preparation.

Now that The Leggett has been penalised for winning at Stratford last Saturday, the Carpenter Handicap Chase can go to General Chaudes, who seems to have taken on a new lease of life since returning



The enigmatic Vodka has a fine chance if he consents to start for the Arkell Brewery Handicap Chase at Newbury

Marked decrease in Derby entries

There are 126 entries for this year's Derby, 43 down on last year's figure of 169. Entries for the Gold Seal Oaks also show a decrease, although still well above the total of 133 in 1988 and the 1989 figure of 151.

Entries for the General Assembly (1,000) and 1,000 Guineas (1,000) at Newmarket both total 87, which is the case of the 2,000 Guineas in 21 less than last year.

The initial entry fee for the Derby is £2,320 has not changed for four years, but the cost at subsequent stages has increased substantially.

In 1989, the total cost of entering a horse for the Derby was £4,000, but this year the figure has risen to £4,500.

Exact racecourse has guaranteed that the Derby will be worth £500,000, an increase of £100,000, but because of the drop in entries the course essentially will have to find a greater proportion - estimated at around £50,000 - of the prize-money this year.

The Nettleman, managing director of United Racecourses, said: "The prize-money represents a good deal for owners, who are only contributing about 45 per cent of the purse - roughly half the proportion they contributed to the Irish Derby."

"Having pegged the initial entry for four years now, a review of the 1991 Derby conditions is clearly an option," he added.

Cruising Altitude camp cheered by Dwaadme's promise

Oliver Sherwood, who reported his Champion Hurdle hope Cruising Altitude to fine tune, saddled Dwaadme to justify even money favouritism in the Cheltenham Hurdle at Ludlow yesterday.

The Vatman Cometh, Mayoran and Castle Windows raced virtually in line going into the second-last furlong, but Cruising Altitude and Dwaadme were close on their heels and, jumping to the front at the last obstacle, the Lambourn bay won by 1 1/2 lengths from Castle Windows.

"Dwaadme jumped nicely on this occasion, but not very well when he was runner-up to Sondrio on his debut at Nottingham. Now I might send him to Liverpool for the three-mile," Sherwood said.

Dwaadme was the first winner for Olympic National Hunt Racing, who has three horses in training. The other two are with Kim Bailey and Charlie Brooks, and each trainer has a share in each horse.

Rickie Davis received severe bruising and a cut to his left eye when his mount Monastic Calm fell in Dwaadme's race. He was calling in at Worcester Royal Infirmary on his way home for x-rays.

Roger and Kevin Kinch watched Shady Road, whom they run in the name of their Leicester haulage business, provide them with a first winner when making a winning debut over fences in the Bromfield Novices Chase.

Elite Boy, who had led from the start, was left with a clear lead when Zummezzat fell three furlongs from home.

The Devon-trained gelding had just gained the advantage before the mishap, but Elite Boy began tying up about 50 yards from home, and Graham Brad key on Shady Road collected him to win by two lengths. Romany King just edged Elite Boy out of second place.

Shady Road, who was bought last year in Ireland, where he won three point-to-points and a bumper, is trained by Owen O'Neill at Cheltenham.

"He has been running well enough over hurdles without managing to win and has been crying out for a race over a mile," said O'Neill.

Lambourn trainer Charlie Nelson runs Akimbo in today's £5,000 Prix de la Baie des Anges (1m) at Cagnes-sur-Mer. Britain also responded in the £5,000 Prix d'Eze (1m 2f) by Bashful Boy.

Morley Street in home gallop
Toby Bolding confirmed his earlier form by winning his second spring for the Champion Hurdle, will go straight to Cheltenham.

As expected, the six-year-old was pulled out of today's White Rabbits Hurdle at Haydock Park.

"We would only have considered Haydock if the ground had been good. I am planning to gallop him at home with Beach Road on Saturday," said the Haydock trainer.

Beach Road is currently 11-8 with William Hill for the Champion Hurdle, while his stable companion is 20-1.

Zuko out for season

Zuko, backed down to joint second favourite for the Seagram Grand National, has injured himself and is most unlikely to run again this season.

His trainer Stan Mellor said yesterday: "Zuko has an injured foreleg. We don't know how the injury occurred. We cantered him yesterday, but these things can happen at any time."

"There is some heat and swelling and, although it will be three days before we know the full extent of the injury, he is unlikely to be able to run for the remainder of the season."

Mellor took the disappointment in philosophical fashion, adding: "Jumping is the greatest game in the world, but these things happen. I am particularly disappointed for Zuko's owners."

Stanley Powell's nine-year-old had finished a good third behind First Boot in the Portland Handicap Chase at Kempton Park last Friday.

Zuko's likely defection from Aintree has marginally altered the betting on the race. William Hill go 14-1 Brown Windsor, 16-1 Ballydoon, 16-1 Against The Grain, Call Collect.

NEWBURY

Selections

By Maudaria

2.00 Go West.
2.30 Question Of Degree.
3.30 Vodka.

3.30 Santa Bobbes.
4.00 Rodden Brook.
4.30 Lyebric.

By Michael Seely
3.30 POFESWOOD (nap), 4.30 Lyebric.
Brian Beel's selection: 4.00 Rodden Brook.

Going: heavy (soft straight)

1.0 ARDINGTON NOVICES CHASE (€3,817; 2m 160yd) (12 runners)

101	50088	DEVEREUX SPOOK 8 (M) (R) (T) (N) (S) (P) (Q) (R) (S) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z) (AA) (AB) (AC) (AD) (AE) (AF) (AG) (AH) (AI) (AJ) (AK) (AL) (AM) (AN) (AO) (AP) (AQ) (AR) (AS) (AT) (AU) (AV) (AW) (AX) (AY) (AZ) (BA) (BB) (BC) (BD) (BE) (BF) (BG) (BH) (BI) (BJ) (BK) (BL) (BM) (BN) (BO) (BP) (BQ) (BR) (BS) (BT) (BU) (BV) (BW) (BX) (BY) (BZ) (CA) (CB) (CC) (CD) (CE) (CF) (CG) (CH) (CI) (CJ) (CK) (CL) (CM) (CN) (CO) (CP) (CQ) (CR) (CS) (CT) (CU) (CV) (CW) (CX) (CY) (CZ) (DA) (DB) (DC) (DD) (DE) (DF) (DG) (DH) (DI) (DJ) (DK) (DL) (DM) (DN) (DO) (DP) (DQ) (DR) (DS) (DT) (DU) (DV) (DW) (DX) (DY) (DZ) (EA) (EB) (EC) (ED) (EE) (EF) (EG) (EH) (EI) (EJ) (EK) (EL) (EM) (EN) (EO) (EP) (EQ) (ER) (ES) (ET) (EU) (EV) (EW) (EX) (EY) (EZ) (FA) (FB) (FC) (FD) (FE) (FF) (FG) (FH) (FI) (FJ) (FK) (FL) (FM) (FN) (FO) (FP) (FQ) (FR) (FS) (FT) (FU) (FV) (FW) (FX) (FY) (FZ) (GA) (GB) (GC) (GD) (GE) (GF) (GG) (GH) (GI) (GJ) (GK) (GL) (GM) (GN) (GO) (GP) (GQ) (GR) (GS) (GT) (GU) (GV) (GW) (GX) (GY) (GZ) (HA) (HB) (HC) (HD) (HE) (HF) (HG) (HH) (HI) (HJ) (HK) (HL) (HM) (HN) (HO) (HP) (HQ) (HR) (HS) (HT) (HU) (HV) (HW) (HX) (HY) (HZ) (IA) (IB) (IC) (ID) (IE) (IF) (IG) (IH) (II) (IJ) (IK) (IL) (IM) (IN) (IO) (IP) (IQ) (IR) (IS) (IT) (IU) (IV) (IW) (IX) (IY) (IZ) (JA) (JB) (JC) (JD) (JE) (JF) (JG) (JH) (JI) (JJ) (JK) (JL) (JM) (JN) (JO) (JP) (JQ) (JR) (JS) (JT) (JU) (JV) (JW) (JX) (JY) (JZ) (KA) (KB) (KC) (KD) (KE) (KF) (KG) (KH) (KI) (KJ) (KL) (KM) (KN) (KO) (KP) (KQ) (KR) (KS) (KT) (KU) (KV) (KW) (KX) (KY) (KZ) (LA) (LB) (LC) (LD) (LE) (LF) (LG) (LH) (LI) (LJ) (LK) (LM) (LN) (LO) (LP) (LQ) (LR) (LS) (LT) (LU) (LV) (LW) (LX) (LY) (LZ) (MA) (MB) (MC) (MD) (ME) (MF) (MG) (MH) (MI) (MJ) (MK) (ML) (MN) (MO) (MP) (MQ) (MR) (MS) (MT) (MU) (MV) (MW) (MX) (MY) (MZ) (NA) (NB) (NC) (ND) (NE) (NF) (NG) (NH) (NI) (NJ) (NK) (NL) (NM) (NO) (NP) (NQ) (NR) (NS) (NT) (NU) (NV) (NW) (NX) (NY) (NZ) (OA) (OB) (OC) (OD) (OE) (OF) (OG) (OH) (OI) (OJ) (OK) (OL) (OM) (ON) (OO) (OP) (OQ) (OR) (OS) (OT) (OU) (OV) (OW) (OX) (OY) (OZ) (PA) (PB) (PC) (PD) (PE) (PF) (PG) (PH) (PI) (PJ) (PK) (PL) (PM) (PN) (PO) (PP) (PQ) (PR) (PS) (PT) (PU) (PV) (PW) (PX) (PY) (PZ) (QA) (QB) (QC) (QD) (QE) (QF) (QG) (QH) (QI) (QJ) (QK) (QL) (QM) (QN) (QO) (QP) (QQ) (QR) (QS) (QT) (QU) (QV) (QW) (QX) (QY) (QZ) (RA) (RB) (RC) (RD) (RE) (RF) (RG) (RH) (RI) (RJ) (RK) (RL) (RM) (RN) (RO) (RP) (RQ) (RR) (RS) (RT) (RU) (RV) (RW) (RX) (RY) (RZ) (SA) (SB) (SC) (SD) (SE) (SF) (SG) (SH) (SI) (SJ) (SK) (SL) (SM) (SN) (SO) (SP) (SQ) (SR) (SS) (ST) (SU) (SV) (SW) (SX) (SY) (SZ) (TA) (TB) (TC) (TD) (TE) (TF) (TG) (TH) (TI) (TJ) (TK) (TL) (TM) (TN) (TO) (TP) (TQ) (TR) (TS) (TT) (TU) (TV) (TW) (TX) (TY) (TZ) (UA) (UB) (UC) (UD) (UE) (UF) (UG) (UH) (UI) (UJ) (UK) (UL) (UM) (UN) (UO) (UP) (UQ) (UR) (US) (UT) (UU) (UV) (UW) (UX) (UY) (UZ) (VA) (VB) (VC) (VD) (VE) (VF) (VG) (VH) (VI) (VJ) (VK) (VL) (VM) (VN) (VO) (VP) (VQ) (VR) (VS) (VT) (VU) (VV) (VW) (VX) (VY) (VZ) (WA) (WB) (WC) (WD) (WE) (WF) (WG) (WH) (WI) (WJ) (WK) (WL) (WM) (WN) (WO) (WP) (WQ) (WR) (WS) (WT) (WU) (WV) (WW) (WX) (WY) (WZ) (XA) (XB) (XC) (XD) (XE) (XF) (XG) (XH) (XI) (XJ) (XK) (XL) (XM) (XN) (XO) (XP) (XQ) (XR) (XS) (XT) (XU) (XV) (XW) (XX) (XY) (XZ) (YA) (YB) (YC) (YD) (YE) (YF) (YG) (YH) (YI) (YJ) (YK) (YL) (YM) (YN) (YO) (YP) (YQ) (YR) (YS) (YT) (YU) (YV) (YW) (YX) (YY) (YZ) (ZA) (ZB) (ZC) (ZD) (ZE) (ZF) (ZG) (ZH) (ZI) (ZJ) (ZK) (ZL) (ZM) (ZN) (ZO) (ZP) (ZQ) (ZR) (ZS) (ZT) (ZU) (ZV) (ZW) (ZX) (ZY) (ZZ)
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BETTING: 5-4 Go West, 5-2 Question Of Degree, 10-1 Lyebric, 10-1 Plastic Spoons, 10-1 Lyebric, 10-1 Plastic Spoons, 10-1 Lyebric.

2.00 GO WEST (€3,817; 2m 160yd) (12 runners)

101	50088	DEVEREUX SPOOK 8 (M) (R) (T) (N) (S) (P) (Q) (R) (S) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z) (AA) (AB) (AC) (AD) (AE) (AF) (AG) (AH) (AI) (AJ) (AK) (AL) (AM) (AN) (AO) (AP) (AQ) (AR) (AS) (AT) (AU) (AV) (AW) (AX) (AY) (AZ) (BA) (BB) (BC) (BD) (BE) (BF) (BG) (BH) (BI) (BJ) (BK) (BL) (BM) (BN) (BO) (BP) (BQ) (BR) (BS) (BT) (BU) (BV) (BW) (BX) (BY) (BZ) (CA) (CB) (CC) (CD) (CE) (CF) (CG) (CH) (CI) (CJ) (CK) (CL) (CM) (CN) (CO) (CP) (CQ) (CR) (CS) (CT) (CU) (CV) (CW) (CX) (CY) (CZ) (DA) (DB) (DC) (DD) (DE) (DF) (DG) (DH) (DI) (DJ) (DK) (DL) (DM) (DN) (DO) (DP) (DQ) (DR) (DS) (DT) (DU) (DV) (DW) (DX) (DY) (DZ) (EA) (EB) (EC) (ED) (EE) (EF) (EG) (EH) (EI) (EJ) (EK) (EL) (EM) (EN) (EO) (EP) (EQ) (ER) (ES) (ET) (EU) (EV) (EW) (EX) (EY) (EZ) (FA) (FB) (FC) (FD) (FE) (FF) (FG) (FH) (FI) (FJ) (FK) (FL) (FM) (FN) (FO) (FP) (FQ) (FR) (FS) (FT) (FU) (FV) (FW) (FX) (FY) (FZ) (GA) (GB) (GC) (GD) (GE) (GF) (GG) (GH) (GI) (GJ) (GK) (GL) (GM) (GN) (GO) (GP) (GQ) (GR) (GS) (GT) (GU) (GV) (GW) (GX) (GY) (GZ) (HA) (HB) (HC) (HD) (HE) (HF) (HG) (HH) (HI) (HJ) (HK) (HL) (HM) (HN) (HO) (HP) (HQ) (HR) (HS) (HT) (HU) (HV) (HW) (HX) (HY) (HZ) (IA) (IB) (IC) (ID) (IE) (IF) (IG) (IH) (II) (IJ) (IK) (IL) (IM) (IN) (IO) (IP) (IQ) (IR) (IS) (IT) (IU) (IV) (IW) (IX) (IY) (IZ) (JA) (JB) (JC) (JD) (JE) (JF) (JG) (JH) (JI) (JJ) (JK) (JL) (JM) (JN) (JO) (JP) (JQ) (JR) (JS) (JT) (JU) (JV) (JW) (JX) (JY) (JZ) (KA) (KB) (KC) (KD) (KE) (KF) (KG) (KH) (KI) (KJ) (KL) (KM) (KN) (KO) (KP) (KQ) (KR) (KS) (KT) (KU) (KV) (KW) (KX) (KY) (KZ) (LA) (LB) (LC) (LD) (LE) (LF) (LG) (LH) (LI) (LJ) (LK) (LM) (LN) (LO) (LP) (LQ) (LR) (LS) (LT) (LU) (LV) (LW) (LX) (LY) (LZ) (MA) (MB) (MC) (MD) (ME) (MF) (MG) (MH) (MI) (MJ) (MK) (ML) (MN) (MO) (MP) (MQ) (MR) (MS) (MT) (MU) (MV) (MW) (MX) (MY) (MZ) (NA) (NB) (NC) (ND) (NE) (NF) (NG) (NH) (NI) (NJ) (NK) (NL) (NM) (NO) (NP) (NQ) (NR) (NS) (NT) (NU) (NV) (NW) (NX) (NY) (NZ) (OA) (OB) (OC) (OD) (OE) (OF) (OG) (OH) (OI) (OJ) (OK) (OL) (OM) (ON) (OO) (OP) (OQ) (OR) (OS) (OT) (OU) (OV) (OW) (OX) (OY) (OZ) (PA) (PB) (PC) (PD) (PE) (PF) (PG) (PH) (PI) (PJ) (PK) (PL) (PM) (PN) (PO) (PP) (PQ) (PR) (PS) (PT) (PU) (PV) (PW) (PX) (PY) (PZ) (QA) (QB) (QC) (QD) (QE) (QF) (QG) (QH) (QI) (QJ) (QK) (QL) (QM) (QN) (QO) (QP) (QQ) (QR) (QS) (QT) (QU) (QV) (QW) (QX) (QY) (QZ) (RA) (RB) (RC) (RD) (RE) (RF) (RG) (RH) (RI) (RJ) (RK) (RL) (RM) (RN) (RO) (RP) (RQ) (RR) (RS) (RT) (RU) (RV) (RW) (RX) (RY) (RZ) (SA) (SB) (SC) (SD) (SE) (SF) (SG) (SH) (SI) (SJ) (SK) (SL) (SM) (SN) (SO) (SP) (SQ) (SR) (SS) (ST) (SU) (SV) (SW) (SX) (SY) (SZ) (TA) (TB) (TC) (TD) (TE) (TF) (TG) (TH) (TI) (TJ) (TK) (TL) (TM) (TN) (TO) (TP) (TQ) (TR) (TS) (TT) (TU) (TV) (TW) (TX) (TY) (TZ) (UA) (UB) (UC) (UD) (UE) (UF) (UG) (UH) (UI) (UJ) (UK) (UL) (UM) (UN) (UO) (UP) (UQ) (UR) (US) (UT) (UU) (UV) (UW) (UX) (UY) (UZ) (VA) (VB) (VC) (VD) (VE) (VF) (VG) (VH) (VI) (VJ) (VK) (VL) (VM) (VN) (VO) (VP) (VQ) (VR) (VS) (VT) (VU) (VV) (VW) (VX) (VY) (VZ) (WA) (WB) (WC) (WD) (WE) (WF) (WG) (WH) (WI) (WJ) (WK) (WL) (WM) (WN) (WO) (WP) (WQ) (WR) (WS) (WT) (WU) (WV) (WW) (WX) (WY) (WZ) (XA) (XB) (XC) (XD) (XE) (XF) (XG) (XH) (XI) (XJ) (XK) (XL) (XM) (XN) (XO) (XP) (XQ) (XR) (XS) (XT) (XU) (XV) (XW) (XX) (XY) (XZ) (YA) (YB) (YC) (YD) (YE) (YF) (YG) (YH) (YI) (YJ) (YK) (YL) (YM) (YN) (YO) (YP) (YQ) (YR) (YS) (YT) (YU) (YV) (YW) (YX) (YY) (YZ) (ZA) (ZB) (ZC) (ZD) (ZE) (ZF) (ZG) (ZH) (ZI) (ZJ) (ZK) (ZL) (ZM) (ZN) (ZO) (ZP) (ZQ) (ZR) (ZS) (ZT) (ZU) (ZV) (ZW) (ZX) (ZY) (ZZ)
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BETTING: 5-4 Go West, 5-2 Question Of Degree, 10-1 Lyebric, 10-1 Plastic Spoons, 10-1 Lyebric.

3.00 VODKA (€3,817; 2m 160yd) (12 runners)

101	50088	DEVEREUX SPOOK 8 (M) (R) (T) (N) (S) (P) (Q) (R) (S) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z) (AA) (AB) (AC) (AD) (AE) (AF) (AG) (AH) (AI) (AJ) (AK) (AL) (AM) (AN) (AO) (AP) (AQ) (AR) (AS) (AT) (AU) (AV) (AW) (AX) (AY) (AZ) (BA) (BB) (BC) (BD) (BE) (BF) (BG) (BH) (BI) (BJ) (BK) (BL) (BM) (BN) (BO) (BP) (BQ) (BR) (BS) (BT) (BU) (BV) (BW) (BX) (BY) (BZ) (CA) (CB) (CC) (CD) (CE) (CF) (CG) (CH) (CI) (CJ) (CK) (CL) (CM) (CN) (CO) (CP) (CQ) (CR) (CS) (CT) (CU) (CV) (CW) (CX) (CY) (CZ) (DA) (DB) (DC) (DD) (DE) (DF) (DG) (DH) (DI) (DJ) (DK) (DL) (DM) (DN) (DO) (DP) (DQ) (DR) (DS) (DT) (DU) (DV) (DW) (DX) (DY) (DZ) (EA) (EB) (EC) (ED) (EE) (EF) (EG) (EH) (EI) (EJ) (EK) (EL) (EM) (EN) (EO) (EP) (EQ) (ER) (ES) (ET) (EU) (EV) (EW) (EX) (EY) (EZ) (FA) (FB) (FC) (FD) (FE) (FF) (FG) (FH) (FI) (FJ) (FK) (FL) (FM) (FN) (FO) (FP) (FQ) (FR) (FS) (FT) (FU) (FV) (FW) (FX) (FY) (FZ) (GA) (GB) (GC) (GD) (GE) (GF) (GG) (GH) (GI) (GJ) (GK) (GL) (GM) (GN) (GO) (GP) (GQ) (GR) (GS) (GT) (GU) (GV) (GW) (GX) (GY) (GZ) (HA) (HB) (HC) (HD) (HE) (HF) (HG) (HH) (HI) (HJ) (HK) (HL) (HM) (HN) (HO) (HP) (HQ) (HR) (HS) (HT) (HU) (HV) (HW) (HX) (HY) (HZ) (IA) (IB) (IC) (ID) (IE) (IF) (IG) (IH) (II) (IJ) (IK) (IL) (IM) (IN) (IO) (IP) (IQ) (IR) (IS) (IT) (IU) (IV) (IW) (IX) (IY) (IZ) (JA) (JB) (JC) (JD) (JE) (JF) (JG) (JH) (JI) (JJ) (JK) (JL) (JM) (JN) (JO) (JP) (JQ) (JR) (JS) (JT) (JU) (JV) (JW) (JX) (JY) (JZ) (KA) (KB) (KC) (KD) (KE) (KF) (KG) (KH) (KI) (KJ) (KL) (KM) (KN) (KO) (KP) (KQ) (KR) (KS) (KT) (KU) (KV) (KW) (KX) (KY) (KZ) (LA) (LB) (LC) (LD) (LE) (LF) (LG) (LH) (LI) (LJ) (LK) (LM) (LN) (LO) (LP) (LQ) (LR) (LS) (LT) (LU) (LV) (LW) (LX) (LY) (LZ) (MA) (MB) (MC) (MD) (ME) (MF) (MG) (MH) (MI) (MJ) (MK) (ML) (MN) (MO) (MP) (MQ) (MR) (MS) (MT) (MU) (MV) (MW) (MX) (MY) (MZ) (NA) (NB) (NC) (ND) (NE) (NF) (NG) (NH) (NI) (NJ) (NK) (NL) (NM) (NO) (NP) (NQ) (NR) (NS) (NT) (NU) (NV) (NW) (NX) (NY) (NZ) (OA) (OB) (OC) (OD) (OE) (OF) (OG) (OH) (OI) (OJ) (OK) (OL) (OM) (ON) (OO) (OP) (OQ) (OR) (OS) (OT) (OU) (OV) (OW) (OX) (OY) (OZ) (PA) (PB) (PC) (PD) (PE) (PF) (PG) (PH) (PI) (PJ) (PK) (PL) (PM) (PN) (PO) (PP) (PQ) (PR) (PS) (PT) (PU) (PV) (PW) (PX) (PY) (PZ) (QA) (QB) (QC) (QD) (QE) (QF) (QG) (QH) (QI) (QJ) (QK) (QL) (QM) (QN) (QO) (QP) (QQ) (QR) (QS) (QT) (QU) (QV) (QW) (QX) (QY) (QZ) (RA) (RB) (RC) (RD) (RE) (RF) (RG) (RH) (RI) (RJ) (RK) (RL) (RM) (RN) (RO) (RP) (RQ) (RR) (RS) (RT) (RU) (RV) (RW) (RX) (RY) (RZ) (SA) (SB) (SC) (SD) (SE) (SF) (SG) (SH) (SI) (SJ) (SK) (SL) (SM) (SN) (SO) (SP) (SQ) (SR) (SS) (ST) (SU) (SV) (SW) (SX) (SY) (SZ) (TA) (TB) (TC) (TD) (TE) (TF) (TG) (TH) (TI) (TJ) (TK) (TL) (TM) (TN) (TO) (TP) (TQ) (TR) (TS) (TT) (TU) (TV) (TW) (TX) (TY) (TZ) (UA) (UB) (UC) (UD) (UE) (UF) (UG) (UH) (UI) (UJ) (UK) (UL) (UM) (UN) (UO) (UP) (UQ) (UR) (US) (UT) (UU) (UV) (UW) (UX) (UY) (UZ) (VA) (VB) (VC) (VD) (VE) (VF) (VG) (VH) (VI) (VJ) (VK) (VL) (VM) (VN) (VO) (VP) (VQ) (VR) (VS) (VT) (VU) (VV) (VW) (VX) (VY) (VZ) (WA) (WB) (WC) (WD) (WE) (WF) (WG) (WH) (WI) (WJ) (WK) (WL) (WM) (WN) (WO) (WP) (WQ) (WR) (WS) (WT) (WU) (WV) (WW) (WX) (WY) (WZ) (XA) (XB) (XC) (XD) (XE) (XF) (XG) (XH) (XI) (XJ) (XK) (XL) (XM) (XN) (XO) (XP) (XQ) (XR) (XS) (XT) (XU) (XV) (XW) (XX) (XY) (XZ) (YA) (YB) (YC) (YD) (YE) (YF) (YG) (YH) (YI) (YJ) (YK) (YL) (YM) (YN) (YO) (YP) (YQ) (YR) (YS) (YT) (YU) (YV) (YW) (YX) (YY) (YZ) (ZA) (ZB) (ZC) (ZD) (ZE) (ZF) (ZG) (ZH) (ZI) (ZJ) (ZK) (ZL) (ZM) (ZN) (ZO) (ZP) (ZQ) (ZR) (ZS) (ZT) (ZU) (ZV) (ZW) (ZX) (ZY) (ZZ)
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BETTING: 5-4 Go West, 5-2 Question Of Degree, 10-1 Lyebric, 10-1 Plastic Spoons, 10-1 Lyebric.

4.00 RODDEN BROOK (€3,817; 2m 160yd) (12 runners)

101	50088	DEVEREUX SPOOK 8 (M) (R) (T) (N) (S) (P) (Q) (R) (S) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z) (AA) (AB) (AC) (AD) (AE) (AF) (AG) (AH) (AI) (AJ) (AK) (AL) (AM) (AN) (AO) (AP) (AQ) (AR) (AS) (AT) (AU) (AV) (AW) (AX) (AY) (AZ) (BA) (BB) (BC) (BD) (BE) (BF) (BG) (BH) (BI) (BJ) (BK) (BL) (BM) (BN) (BO) (BP) (BQ) (BR) (BS) (BT) (BU) (BV) (BW) (BX) (BY) (BZ) (CA) (CB) (CC) (CD) (CE) (CF) (CG) (CH) (CI) (CJ) (CK) (CL) (CM) (CN) (CO) (CP) (CQ) (CR) (CS) (CT) (CU) (CV) (CW) (CX) (CY) (CZ) (DA) (DB) (DC) (DD) (DE) (DF) (DG) (DH) (DI) (DJ) (DK) (DL) (DM) (DN) (DO) (DP) (DQ) (DR) (DS) (DT) (DU) (DV) (DW) (DX) (DY) (DZ) (EA) (EB) (EC) (ED) (EE) (EF) (EG) (EH) (EI) (EJ) (EK) (EL) (EM) (EN) (EO) (EP) (EQ) (ER) (ES) (ET) (EU) (EV) (EW) (EX) (EY) (EZ) (FA) (FB) (FC) (FD) (FE) (FF) (FG) (FH) (FI) (FJ) (FK) (FL) (FM) (FN) (FO) (FP) (FQ) (FR) (FS) (FT) (FU) (FV) (FW) (FX) (FY) (FZ) (GA) (GB) (GC) (GD) (GE) (GF) (GG) (GH) (GI) (GJ) (GK) (GL) (GM) (GN) (GO) (GP) (GQ) (GR) (GS) (GT) (GU) (GV) (GW) (GX) (GY) (GZ) (HA) (HB) (HC) (HD) (HE) (HF) (HG) (HH) (HI) (HJ) (HK) (HL) (HM) (HN) (HO) (HP) (HQ) (HR) (HS) (HT) (HU) (HV) (HW) (HX) (HY) (HZ) (IA) (IB) (IC) (ID) (IE) (IF) (IG) (IH) (II) (IJ) (IK) (IL) (IM) (IN) (IO) (IP) (IQ) (IR) (IS) (IT) (IU) (IV) (IW) (IX) (IY) (IZ) (JA) (JB) (JC) (JD) (JE) (JF) (JG) (JH) (JI) (JJ) (JK) (JL) (JM) (JN) (JO) (JP) (JQ) (JR) (JS) (JT) (JU) (JV) (JW) (JX) (JY) (JZ) (KA) (KB) (KC) (KD) (KE) (KF) (KG) (KH) (KI) (KJ) (KL) (KM) (KN) (KO) (KP) (KQ) (KR) (KS) (KT) (KU) (KV) (KW) (KX) (KY) (KZ) (LA) (LB) (LC) (LD) (LE) (LF) (LG) (LH) (LI) (LJ) (LK) (LM) (LN) (LO) (LP) (LQ) (LR) (LS) (LT) (LU) (LV)
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Reverse route to officially sanctioned tour

Call the last few cricket tours of South Africa what you will — rebel, unapproved, unofficial, unpalatable or wholly unacceptable — they have been well intentioned and undertaken by decent men. The most recent of these was, in the event, misconceived; the next, whenever it is, could be an occasion for people not to protest but to celebrate.

In view of the changes in South Africa, particularly in the last month, it would make no sense whatever to attempt another tour without the explicit approval of the African National Congress (ANC) and its offshoot, the National Sports Congress (NSC). The South Africa Cricket Union (SACU) virtually accepted this when it entered into an agreement with the ANC which allowed the last four matches played by Mike Gatting's XI to proceed unimpeded. The power of the ANC is now a fact of South African life and the SACU knows it.

There is not much doubt, I think, that the Gatting tour went ahead in

the end against the better judgement of its architect, Dr Ali Bacher, the SACU's managing director. Knowing that the ANC/NSC was intending to mount demonstrations on a scale not attempted on earlier tours, he considered a possible alternative whereby, in the first of the two seasons for which they were contracted, the Englishmen should spend their time coaching, mostly in the townships, provided, of course, that that was acceptable to them. Having thought in the first place that this was not a bad idea, the NSC rejected it. And when, on being asked, neither the South African Government nor the police advised Dr Bacher to hide his face, the tour was on.

Previous tours organized by the SACU since South Africa were removed from the International Cricket Conference (now the International Cricket Council) had been good for cricket in the country. With the proceeds, progress had been made towards developing the game in the townships. Dr Bacher's

John Woodcock, in the second of his two-part review of the ill-starred tour of South Africa by Mike Gatting's English XI, says the next one could be a cause for celebration

great scheme for doing so had received world-wide publicity, almost all of it favourable. But such was the campaign to disrupt and denounce the Gatting tour that, whereas a year ago cricket had become a unifying influence, it was now a focal point for protest and, as such, divisive.

Only in Durban were more than a handful of non-white faces to be seen on the grounds. Many would have liked to go but dared not do so for fear of reprisals. In Johannesburg some blacks continued to come and play their multi-racial cricket in the weekend leagues, while others stayed away. In one of the Wanderers' sides, for example, the two from Soweto

never missed a match, but the one from Alexandra vanished into thin air. Their captain told me that he has a much better side when all three are playing.

So Dr Bacher is left with work to do in the townships to regain the confidence of those whose interests he has so much at heart — the young black would-be cricketers of South Africa. There must be a chance, even so, that his reverse of recent weeks will prove to have been a catalyst. As Dr Danie Craven seeks again to centralize the ruling bodies of rugby football in South Africa, and other sporting authorities do the same, so the SACU will see some kind of partnership with the NSC as the

only way forward, and because of this last tour a line of communication is now established, albeit an unreliable one.

To a large extent, though, what happens next has been taken out of the hands of the SACU. It depends upon apartheid being removed from the statute books, and that, if not imminent, could come sooner rather than later. The next cricket tour to be hosted by South Africa is more likely than for a long time to be officially sanctioned than unhappily contrived. It is an exciting prospect and one for which, thanks to the optimism of the SACU, South Africa will be prepared.

Of the four one-day matches with which Gatting's side ended its tour, two were played on splendid new grounds — at Bloemfontein and Pretoria. Nor has Kingmead in Durban been allowed to fall behind. Indeed, it can never have looked better than on the Sunday before last when there was a full house to anticipate the day when the cricket is for real. The Wanderers in

Johannesburg is about to be refurbished, and St George's Park, the Test ground in Port Elizabeth, already has been.

So far as Gatting and his players are concerned, they are being vilified in the same way as the English side was that went to South Africa, a good deal more coarsely, in 1982. Again there are calls for the players to be banned from first-class cricket, and it is certainly of no help to anyone, least of all the England selectors, that for the next five years they will be occupying places in their country sides while ineligible to play for England.

To that extent they will have the same unhelpful effect as if they were overseas players. However, the Test and County Cricket Board does not deal in retrospective legislation. Let us not forget, too, that eight years ago it was Graham Gooch who had done the unforgivable by captaining an English side in South Africa. And what is he today if not a favourite son?

Threats of PE cuts are greeted by anger

By John Goodbody

Leaders of Britain's physical education bodies yesterday expressed their anxiety that the Government may curtail their subject in the new national curriculum.

As the controversy rumbles on over the role of sport and PE in state schools, Elizabeth Murdoch, one of the most experienced physical educationists in the country, said that "some school hours for PE are being reduced now and this will be difficult to recover".

Speaking as the chair of the British Council of Physical Education, she said: "Children's physical competence and health are two preconditions to be left at the bottom of the pile only to be given half-hearted support in the final curriculum."

"We need parents to support the PE profession in ensuring that each child has access to this essential aspect of their development through a fully developed programme at all stages."

Alan Gibbon, the general secretary of the Physical Education Association, said: "I remain sceptical about what the Government is doing. There is no proper commitment to arts and PE and particularly sport in our culture."

He is concerned that time on PE will be "whittled away" with the introduction of the national curriculum, particularly in the fourth and fifth years of the secondary schools, when it is feared that the subject will increasingly suffer because of examination pressure.

The anxious mood of yesterday's conference on PE and the national curriculum at the Institute of Education at London University, which was attended by more than 200 teachers from the South East, is not surprising because in November the Government rejected key recommendations of the report it commissioned on sport and PE in state schools.

Members of the School Sport Forum were particularly disappointed that the Government had not accepted that training primary school teachers should receive at least 100 hours instruction in PE and also that teachers' hours should be re-allocated to allow a full range of extra curricula activities.

The Government has pointed out that it had not accepted only six of the 32 recommendations and that PE will enjoy an established role in the national curriculum when it is implemented in September 1992 because it is one of the 10 subjects which are either core or foundation.

Yet Gibbon told the conference that the Government's attitude towards PE "consistently lacks warmth". However, he himself was still enthusiastic about the place of the subject in schools.

He said that too many clumsy, lit and sensitive pupils were "turned off" by PE in schools. "It is not so much what we offer but how we offer it. A PE programme should be relevant to all pupils, not just the committed minority."

Gibbon said that it was important to lay the basis for pupils of a "physically active lifestyle" after they have left formal education. He stressed that it was not the PE teacher's role to be a coach.

CRICKET

Zimbabwe resistance fighters frustrate the English assault

From Richard Streeton, Harare

An England A attack, lacking David Lawrence, who had a strained calf muscle, was unable to overcome dour resistance by Zimbabwe B yesterday at the Harare South County Club as the three-day game ended in a draw. A gritty sixth-wicket stand of 114 in 49 overs between Hough and Brent saved the match for the home side. They finished 30 runs ahead, with four wickets left, when play ended with 11 overs remaining.

In view of the first five-day international tomorrow, Lawrence rested from lunchtime onwards and a lifeless pitch proved too good for the other bowlers. Hough, a former Zimbabwe squash champion, was fortunate to survive a hard stumping chance against Illingworth before he had scored. He and Brent, the captain, who is a left-handed all-rounder, showed enormous determination as they thwarted the English side.

There is a chance that both men will be asked to join the Zimbabwean party announced earlier in the day for the first of what locally is described as unofficial Tests. Certainly Grant Flower, aged 19, is among the 13 players earmarked to experience international atmosphere and Lock has been picked as net bowler.

The selectors, therefore, originally settled on only four main bowlers. They are Brander, the main strike bowler, who has a chipped elbow bone in his bowling arm; Duers, medium pace; Jarvis, left-arm seam and spin; and Traicos, the former South African Test match off spinner. Shah will help with medium pace but Zimbabwe have clearly packed their side with batting and faith has been kept with the old guard.

Five of the team expected to play were involved when Australia were beaten in the 1983 World Cup at Trent Bridge. Eight of them toured England with Zimbabwe in 1985. Brent's late inclusion would give Zimbabwe a much-needed additional bowler.

Hough and Brent attempted few forceful strokes as Zimbabwe B scored 193 from 88 overs during a day which provided little entertainment. Lawrence first thing bowled five further no-balls during the five overs he managed and there was plenty of work for the three English spinners, who did not always have the rub of the green.

Zimbabwean umpires seem reluctant to give leg-before decisions whoever is batting. They also find it hard to gauge bat-and-pad decisions when

five close fielders are around the bat and the ball is flying about.

Nothing conclusive emerged about the comparative merits of the left-arm spinners, Illingworth and Afford, who are vying for the same international place. With close catchers always stationed, both bowled consistently.

Zimbabwe B were 74 for five when Hough and Brent came together shortly after lunch. The match had entered the fourth over of the last 20 when Hough was caught at second slip. Fletcher, the England coach, was the fielder, acting as substitute after those not playing had left for a net back in the city.

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Extras 0 (5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5)

Total (8 wickets) 206

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FOOTBALL: FIFA PRESIDENT PROPOSES REVOLUTIONARY AND LUCRATIVE PLAN TO SPLIT MATCHES INTO FOUR QUARTERS

Havelange champions a new cause

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

João Havelange, the president of FIFA, has lent his powerful voice to a revolutionary and potentially lucrative proposal which would change the face of football. He has his way, matches would be divided into four quarters of 45 minutes but into four quarters of 25 minutes.

The idea has been kicked around before, initially 15 years ago, but only now is it a figure as influential as Havelange prepared to bring it into play. Yet he must have on his side his own notoriously inflexible governing body if the rules are to be altered.

In opening the debate, Havelange made no attempt to disguise the reason behind his apparent conversion. It is the finance to be found in television advertising. He believes that football can, and should, be enriched even more extravagantly by companies who are willing to pay to

promote their products. Although players already resemble advertisements on the run, pitches have long been enclosed within hoardings, and competitors invariably bear the names of sponsors. Havelange is eager to expand the market place. Why not, he argues, increase the selling space?

The natural breaks in the action would be doubled and so, presumably, would be the money that is generated. The ancient game, through the use of cosmetic surgery, would become, especially to television viewers, more like comparatively modern sports such as American Football and baseball, which might have been designed for advertisers.

"Football is extremely professional," Havelange says. "As such, it should seek all manners of increasing revenues. It is important for the growth of the game." In that case, why stop at four quarters? Why

not split matches into ten segments each of 10 minutes, and at least preserve the traditional duration of 1½ hours?

Havelange suggests that "with the evolution of time, experience and necessity, it would be worth studying" his proposal. It will first be discussed by the FIFA rules committee, and must subsequently be accepted by international board of FIFA before it could be put into operation in experimental form.

If it is ever introduced, initially in a limited number of matches, it will be analysed by coaches, doctors and journalists. Only then could it be brought in at the highest professional level.

Havelange optimistically foresees it being used during the World Cup finals in 1994. Significantly, they are to be staged in the United States, where television dictates the timing of sport. Noting that no fewer than 5,500 representatives of the media

have been accredited for the tournament in Italy this summer, Havelange appreciates that "the media's needs have to be taken into account when considering the future".

American television companies are believed to have told Havelange that, unless the changes are made, it will be almost impossible to assure wide television coverage in 1994. With next to no viewers, advertising income would be almost zero something that would cost FIFA millions of dollars in lost revenue.

In the past, though, not all of FIFA's decisions have turned out to be in the best interests of the game. For instance, when the Football Association attempted last year to eradicate the so-called "professional" foul, almost a decade ago, the scheme was officially rejected.

That was nonsense. No offence incenses players and spectators more than the sight of a defender,

who has been beaten either for pace or by guile, pursuing an opponent and deliberately bringing him down. The habit is deplored even on the Continent, but the punishment, a mere booking, remains ludicrously lenient.

As he relaxes on holiday in a coastal resort to the south of Rio de Janeiro, Havelange might spend his time more profitably in consideration of more productive measures to improve the health of the sport over which he presides. It is not as if the image of the game is beyond improvement.

For example, recent international football featuring four of the World Cup favourites have been either tediously dull — the Netherlands against Brazil, and against Italy — or incessantly ugly — Italy against Argentina. No amount of artificial decoration would have transformed those products into anything like good advertisements for the game.

Kemp is handed the task of assuring Plymouth's survival

By Dennis Siggy

David Kemp, who succeeded Don Howe as coach at Wimbledon this season, was yesterday appointed manager of Plymouth Argyle, one of his former clubs, in succession to Ken Brown, who was dismissed three weeks ago.

The Argyle directors, who put John Gregory, the former Portsmouth manager, in temporary charge when Brown was dismissed last month, moved for Kemp, aged 37, to try and halt a slide with their side in twentieth position in the second division, one point off a relegation place.

Kemp, a prolific goalscorer with Crystal Palace, Portsmouth, Carlisle and Plymouth with whom he spent two seasons as a player 10 years ago, said: "I will miss Wimbledon and am sad to leave. But I have always wanted to be my own man. I think I have my own style."

A former England under-23 representative player, Kemp also played for Seattle and Oklahoma in the United

States before gaining managerial experience in Sweden. Dave Bassett, the former Wimbledon manager, took him to Pough Lane as youth team coach in 1986. He succeeded Don Howe as first team coach last year.

Kemp's arrival at Home Park obviously raises a question mark over the future of Gregory with whom he will liaise before selecting the side for the home match against Sunderland tomorrow. Plymouth will be looking to end a run of 14 games without a win.

Wimbledon have yet to name a successor to Kemp.

Luton Town's attempt to sign the Israeli forward, Ronny Rosenthal, took on new urgency yesterday when they discovered that another international would be out of action because of a second cartilage operation.

The Dane, Lars Elstrup, went into hospital for treatment, two months after his first cartilage operation. His knee injury flared up again in

training last week.

Luton have been negotiating for a week to sign Rosenthal, aged 26, who has won 31 caps for Israel. Standard Liège, of Belgium, are willing to let him go because they have too many foreigners in their squad. "I think we are close to getting an agreement," the Luton manager, Jim Ryan, said. "Ronny wants to play for us but the deal is a bit complicated."

The Football League yesterday announced dates for two live television matches. Tottenham Hotspur will meet Liverpool at White Hart Lane on March 21 (ko 8.05) and Everton will play Nottingham Forest on April 4 (ko 8.05).

Everton's first division match at Manchester United's has been rearranged for March 14 (8.0), subject to no FA Cup replays being necessary. Barnsley's FA Cup fifth round second replay against Sheffield United, twice postponed this week, has been rearranged for next Monday.

Webb and Robson on the mend

By Ian Ross

A specialist's report on the condition of Neil Webb, the injured Manchester United and England international midfielder, has provided a timely boost for both his club and his country.

Webb is expected to be given the go-ahead to resume light training and ball-work early next week, six months after he ruptured his Achilles tendon while playing in a World Cup qualifying game against Sweden in Stockholm.

"Although a decision on when Neil can start to kick a football again has been deferred until next week, we are happy with the way things are progressing," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said.

Bobby Robson, the England manager, has indicated that Webb still has an outside chance of being included in his 22-man squad for this summer's World Cup finals in Italy despite the fact that he has played only four senior games this season.

Ferguson had more good news for the England manager yesterday in the form of an encouraging report on the progress being made by Bryan Robson, the United captain, who underwent an operation on his groin three weeks ago.

"I expect Bryan to be match-fit in about three weeks' time," Ferguson said. "At the time of his operation we were told that his recovery would take about six weeks."



Webb has been given the go-ahead to resume light training

ITV close to a record deal for World Cup

By Louise Taylor

ITV is poised to finalise a £2 million World Cup sponsorship agreement with National Power. It will be the largest sports contract made with television, and will involve the logo of the generating company appearing on screen 11 times an hour during coverage of the World Cup. National Power is also likely to be provided with £1 million worth of commercial breaks during the transmission of football.

Any Roe, of National Power, last night said he was "optimistic" of signing the contract in the near future.

One of six companies to be short-listed for the sponsorship

by ITV, National Power is part of the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB), but will become the largest generating company to operate under the government's privatisation plans for the electricity industry. Its connection with the World Cup will upset Power Gen, a rival which sponsors the weather on ITV.

It will play in this year's World Cup finals, João Havelange, the president of the International Football Federation (FIFA), insisted yesterday. Egypt have caused an uproar in Algeria by withdrawing from the African Nations Cup, starting

Underdogs Leek sink holders' hopes

By a Special Correspondent

Telford United's dream of repeating last season's victory in the FA Trophy ended at the hands of the giant-killers, Leek Town, in the first division of the HFS Leek League in the third round replay held on Tuesday.

The surprise 3-0 defeat came as enthusiasm at the Buck's Head Ground reached an all-time high, following the announcement by the Telford manager, Derek Mann, to invite a number of his players to sign professional contracts in the summer.

Since Mann took over as manager, after the resignation of Alan Storton, and appointed Gerry Dalrymple, formerly of Manchester United, as player-

coach, Telford have had an impressive run of results, one loss in nine games, which has hoisted the club to a comfortable mid-table position in the GM Vauxhall Conference.

Telford are the fourth Conference side to employ full-time footballers, and have another trophy in sight: a second round replay in the Bob Lord Trophy, against Atrincham, is scheduled for next week.

Leek, whose previous best in the competition was to reach the last 16 in 1985, were rewarded with a home tie against Darlington, the Conference leaders. The draw also pits Kidderminster against high-flying Colne Dynamos, who have knocked out Atrincham, Northwich Victoria and their latest victims, Farnborough, on the way to the

fourth round. Colne are 11 points clear at the top of the HFS Leek League premier division, and look certain to join the Conference next season.

Away from the FA Trophy, Barneet have announced that their league game against promotion rivals Darlington, on March 31, will be all-ticket. The match, which could decide the Conference championship and subsequent promotion to the Football League, will have a 5,880 spectator limit.

In the Beazer Homes League, Crawley have had a tempestuous week, following the seven-day suspension of Gerry Armstrong, their player-coach, for remarks made to the manager, John Maggs, and supporters during a game against Horsham, and the injury to Ray

Walker, the regular goalkeeper. Prier Bonetti, the former Chelsea and England goalkeeper, will come out of retirement to play for Crawley at Bromsgrove on Saturday.

REVISED FA TROPHY: Fourth round draw: Kingstonian v Barrow; Lark Town v Darlington; Kidderminster v Horsham; Colne Dynamos, Barnet v Sudbury Rangers.

Teams to be played Saturday March 17: ① Eight Merthyr Tydfil players are included in the Welsh non-league squad to play England at their own Pen-y-darren Park ground on March 6.

SQUAD: G. Wager (Merthyr), T. Ball (Merthyr), C. Evans (Barrow), M. Tucker (Merthyr), M. Stacey (Kidderminster), E. Edwards (Kidderminster), L. Lewis (Kidderminster), S. Williams (Merthyr), L. Morris (Barrow), B. Bennett (Merthyr), M. Powell (Barrow), P. Giese (Merthyr), A. Williams (Kidderminster), P. Green (Merthyr), D. Wetherby (Merthyr), G. Bennett (Merthyr).

No problems for Lady Margaret

By a Special Correspondent

Lady Margaret made it look easy as they rowed to the finish in 31 strokes per minute after snatching the 1½-length start gap over the deposited head boat, Pembroke. Pembroke were preceded by Trinity Hall, who steadily closed the gap and were just half a length adrift at the time as the rain turned to snow to set another day of squalls and showers.

Downing down Emmanuel coming out of Gussy Cottage, but Chris took to the water before going for the kill on 1st and 3rd Trinity while Churchill overtook Magdalen at the helms to claim their second jump of the week.

Among the women, the new hailers, Jesus, failed to take any impression on Emmanuel, who looked to be having confidence and were lengths clear at the line.

1st Division: Downing down Emmanuel, 2nd Trinity Hall, 3rd Trinity Hall, 4th Trinity Hall, 5th Trinity Hall, 6th Trinity Hall, 7th Trinity Hall, 8th Trinity Hall, 9th Trinity Hall, 10th Trinity Hall, 11th Trinity Hall, 12th Trinity Hall, 13th Trinity Hall, 14th Trinity Hall, 15th Trinity Hall, 16th Trinity Hall, 17th Trinity Hall, 18th Trinity Hall, 19th Trinity Hall, 20th Trinity Hall, 21st Trinity Hall, 22nd Trinity Hall, 23rd Trinity Hall, 24th Trinity Hall, 25th Trinity Hall, 26th Trinity Hall, 27th Trinity Hall, 28th Trinity Hall, 29th Trinity Hall, 30th Trinity Hall, 31st Trinity Hall, 32nd Trinity Hall, 33rd Trinity Hall, 34th Trinity Hall, 35th Trinity Hall, 36th Trinity Hall, 37th Trinity Hall, 38th Trinity Hall, 39th Trinity Hall, 40th Trinity Hall, 41st Trinity Hall, 42nd Trinity Hall, 43rd Trinity Hall, 44th Trinity Hall, 45th Trinity Hall, 46th Trinity Hall, 47th Trinity Hall, 48th Trinity Hall, 49th Trinity Hall, 50th Trinity Hall, 51st Trinity Hall, 52nd Trinity Hall, 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TOMORROW'S
SPORT

The facts, the figures and the expert analyses of the great sporting events of the weekend

- Can Scotland keep on course for the grand slam of rugby union?
- Can Lloyd Honeyghan regain the world welterweight championship from Mark Breland?
- Can Britain dominate the European indoor athletics championships?

The champagne cricketers of England

From Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent
Kingston, Jamaica

English cricket has waited in hope, but never in confidence, for a day such as this. Two minutes after midday, on a date that will be ingrained on many an astonished mind, West Indies were vanquished by nine wickets on the ground where, for too many years, they have been awesomely invincible.

The margin of victory was the same as when England last won in Kingston in 1954. But things were different then; no one was surprised. This morning, even among the England players who wake with champagne heads, there will be a moment when they wonder, fearfully, if it really did happen.

Graham Gooch, nothing if not a realist, can reassure them. Captain at last, after one cancelled tour and one open snub, he has mocked those who doubted his ability to inspire. One Test in a long tour does not make everything right, and goodness knows there was much that was wrong, but a striking facet of this remarkable match has been the faith which he already commands from his players.

If there was a sadness yesterday, it came when Gooch turned Ian Bishop to short square leg and was caught, six runs short of the victory target of 41. It would have been more appropriate if he had hit the winning runs himself. Ten minutes later, any fleeting regret was forgotten as Wayne Larkins, whose inclusion he demanded, took the single which meant so much.

The old deadpan misery which many thought Gooch to be never did exist beneath the surface. But now, in a rare public show of emotion, his face wore an ecstatic grin. "I have," he explained, "waited a long time for this. In 10 years against the West Indies I have never been in a winning position. It is a sweet moment, a great day."

"I was brought up under Keith Fletcher at Essex to go on the field believing you can win each day. I have tried to instil that in all the young lads in our team and I am so pleased for them now. A lot of people said the only result there could be was 5-0. We have proved them wrong."

"We had to concentrate on the things we do well. We have achieved that in one game and the West Indies know they are in a contest. We are sure to have some lows ahead of us but what I can tell you is that we will never give up."

As dozens of bottles of champagne flowed around the noisy England dressing-room, a rare ceremony was being enacted just down the cor-



Smiles all round: Malcolm, Fraser, Gooch, the captain, Lamb, his vice-captain, and Small celebrate in Kingston yesterday after England's first Test win overseas since 1986 and their first over West Indies for 16 years

SCOREBOARD FROM SABINA PARK

WEST INDIES				
First Innings 164 (A R C Fraser 5 for 28)				
Second Innings				
	Runs	Wickets	Extras	Total
C G Greenidge c Hussain b Malcolm	38	1	143	181
D L Haynes b Malcolm	14	2	34	66
R B Richardson lbw b Fraser	25	4	63	98
C A Best c Gooch b Small	64	9	207	335
C A Hooper c Larkins b Small	8	5	34	19
V A Richards b Malcolm	57	5	110	51
W J L Dujon b Malcolm	15	8	35	19
M D Marshall not out	8	3	37	15
I R Bishop c Larkins b Small	3	5	5	5
C A Walsh b Small	2	1	18	11
B P Patterson run out	0	2	1	1
Total (72.3 overs)	240			

ENGLAND				
First Innings 364 (A J Lamb 132; R A Smith 57; C A Walsh 5 for 68)				
Second Innings				
	Runs	Wickets	Extras	Total
G A Gooch c Greenidge b Bishop	28	1	78	106
W Larkins not out	0	3	89	89
A J Stewart not out	0	3	9	9
Extras (lb 1, nb 0)	0			0
Total (11 wks, 18.3 overs)	41			

A J Lamb, R A Smith, N Hussain, D J Capel, I R C Russell, G C Small, A R C Fraser and D E Malcolm did not bat.
BOWLING: Small 22-5-59-4; Malcolm 21-3-77-4 (1w); Capel 15-1-50-4; Fraser 14-5-51-1 (2w).
Man of the Match: A J Lamb.
Umpires: L Barker and S Bucknor.
England won by nine wickets.

ridor. Viv Richards was acknowledging a total, overwhelming defeat. He could find no excuses, nor, to his credit, did he try. He did, however, issue a steely-eyed warning.

"I honestly believe we can still win this series," he said. "In fact, I am positive. We just

needed a kick up the backside. Like the famous Muhammad Ali, 'we shall return.' England played magnificently well but we are not like other teams whose selectors panic after losing. We will take our hiding well and learn from it."

It had been a fitful, nervous night for the English. Wednesday's washout was only the fifth full day's Test cricket lost on this ground in 60 years. Two of these were the eighth and ninth days of the ostensibly timeless Test of 1930 when Andrew Sandham scored 325 and Les Ames, one of this week's cricketing departed, 149 not out. But even that game finished drawn — there was no comfort to be had from history.

Gooch seldom sleeps late, the legacy of three young daughters back home in Brentwood, but yesterday he was driven from his bed even earlier, adrenaline pumping, for an anxious peep through the curtains. He liked what he saw. The sun beat down from a cloudless sky. Justice was to be done.

Micky Stewart's insomnia drove him to Sabina Park shortly after 7am to check on conditions. His captain, by then, was breakfasting before a lengthy, impatient vigil in the

hotel lobby, headphones plugged into Phil Collins, his mind plugged into the proudest day of his life.

Once assembled at the ground, the England players peered at the crucial wet area on which the covers had leaked with the curiosity of antique dealers inspecting a fake. It was still worryingly damp but the umpires, having taken criticism for not exhorting the ground staff to greater efforts on Wednesday, were in no doubt that play must start on time.

And so, after copious spreading of sawdust, the historic day began. Barely 500 people were here to see it. Most were English, including three who were present on the only other occasion England have won on this ground, 36 years ago — Len Hutton and Geoffrey Evans, who played, and Reg Hayter, who reported the game.

West Indies were beaten again here a year later, by Australia, but not for nothing do they consider this to be their lucky ground. This was to be their first defeat here in 35 years and Gooch, who regarded himself as a political prisoner in these islands when England last toured, was the gloriously improbable technician of this gloriously improbable result.

The ninth West Indian wicket, the one England needed to calm them, came with the fourteenth ball of the day. Walsh's off stump was flattened by the perfect ball from Gladstone Small, to my mind the bowler of the match. Later, delightfully happy, Small explained: "The captain had said to be patient — just make them work for the runs and they will get themselves out. It was good advice."

To add a farcical touch to the West Indian demise, Patterson then ran himself out, taking a single to Capel at midwicket.

The rest was a matter of time. England were anxious to finish the job before lunch and managed it with three balls to spare. Larkins was lordly, hitting Patterson and Bishop over the top to the pavilion boundary. When the great moment came he threw his arms skywards. At 36, and without a Test cap for nine years, this was some comeback.

Hard pounding to come

Kingston

There can scarcely be a starker contrast than in the comparative moods of the England side now in Jamaica and that of the touring party here four years ago. The side that I led to the Caribbean in 1986 arrived full of optimism, based on a successful Ashes series the previous summer, which had given us all the confidence to believe that we would compete on relatively equal terms and that we might even sneak a victory somewhere. As it turned out the only victory we achieved was in a one-day international in Trinidad, largely thanks to an outstanding hundred from the present captain, Graham Gooch.

Instead of leaving the Caribbean with our reputations further enhanced, the side slipped further and further back as the tour progressed, and I soon paid the penalty in the following summer when the captaincy was transferred

to the merrier hands of Mike Gatting.

On reflection, the main damage had been done here in Kingston, as much by a fiery, unpredictable pitch as by the use to which it was put by the West Indies pace battery. Psychologically it was a blow from which we never recovered, and even when we finally found a consistent and lasting surface on which to bat in Antigua we were unable to prevent the West Indies "blackwash". In the words of the popular cliche of the time, the ship had well and truly sunk.

How different it is thus far

in the new decade. Last year the Australians routed us in England, and public expectations of this England side were low, though that has meant precious little to Gooch, Micky Stewart and the rest of the team, who have prepared thoroughly for this tour. Indeed the unprofessional cricket in this game has all been played by the West Indians, whose batting displays in both innings gave their bowlers no leeway to redress the balance, as had happened so often in the past.

As a result all the celebra-

tions have been England's. Champagne is available in Kingston and I have tried to do my bit by having the Bollinger flown in from Barbados, but the greatest benefit to England is that the hope that we would get one back over West Indies has now become reality. The resurgent boost in the players' confidence is immeasurable and they are fully entitled to

savour the taste of victory as long as they are allowed.

From a cricketing point of view it is a shame that they have to fall back on another couple of one-day international matches, where professional standards must be maintained and victories sought and achieved. I would much rather have had England continuing to play what I call proper cricket to take their good work through to the second Test in Georgetown, Guyana.

Let us not become too over-confident at this very happy time for England. If we were in the opposition's shoes, we would be suffering from mightily wounded pride, which would make us all the more determined to resume normal service immediately. But England have fully deserved their success in Jamaica, and they will not be averse to the required hard work to continue the conquest.

ENGLAND'S 16-YEAR RECORD OF DEFEAT

By Richard Lockwood

Until yesterday, England had not beaten West Indies in a Test match for 16 years, when they won the final Test of the 1973-74 series at Port of Spain, Trinidad, to claim a 1-1 draw in the series. Then they gained a 26 run victory, Tony Greig returning match figures of 13 for 156 and Geoff Boycott contributing scores of 99 and 112.

Since then the two sides have played 29 Test matches, West Indies winning 20 with nine drawn. In the last three series (1984, 1985-86 and 1988) West Indies had won 14 out of 15 matches, with England gaining a solitary draw — at Trent Bridge in 1988.

Over the last three years,

since they retained the Ashes in December 1986, England had won just one of their 25 Test matches, beating Sri Lanka by seven wickets at Lord's in 1988. By contrast, West Indies' record in home Tests had been most impressive over the last decade: they won 18 of their 30 Tests in the 1980s, and lost only one — to Pakistan — at Georgetown in 1987-88 — and they had won each of their last five Tests at Kingston.

England had won only one of their 10 Tests at Sabina Park, Kingston, beating West Indies by nine wickets in 1953-54; West Indies had won four times and five matches had been drawn.

Sound foundations

Ted Dexter, the chairman of the selectors, quickly indicated where he felt the basis lay for England's success in Jamaica.

"All Micky Stewart's pre-tour planning, training and coaching around the country and at Lilleshall in January

has paid dividends this week," he said from the A team headquarters in Zimbabwe. "However there is a long way to go and four more Tests to be played. England must expect the West Indies to come back at them hard but this is a wonderful start."

England v West Indies 1976-1990

Year	Test	Result
1976	Trent Bridge	England won by 10 wickets
1976	Lord's	England won by 10 wickets
1976	Old Trafford	England won by 10 wickets
1976	Headingley	England won by 10 wickets
1976	The Oval	England won by 10 wickets

West Indies won series 3-0

Year	Test	Result
1980	Trent Bridge	England won by 2 wickets
1980	Lord's	England won by 2 wickets
1980	Old Trafford	England won by 2 wickets
1980	Headingley	England won by 2 wickets
1980	The Oval	England won by 2 wickets

West Indies won series 1-0

Year	Test	Result
1984	Edgbaston	England won by 180 runs
1984	Lord's	England won by 180 runs
1984	Old Trafford	England won by 180 runs
1984	Headingley	England won by 180 runs
1984	The Oval	England won by 180 runs

West Indies won series 5-0

Year	Test	Result
1988-89	Kingston	England won by 10 wickets
1988-89	Port of Spain	England won by 7 wickets
1988-89	Georgetown	England won by 30 runs
1988-89	Port of Spain	England won by 10 wickets
1988-89	St John's	England won by 240 runs

West Indies won series 5-0

Year	Test	Result
1988	Trent Bridge	England won by 134 runs
1988	Lord's	England won by 134 runs
1988	Old Trafford	England won by 134 runs
1988	Headingley	England won by 134 runs
1988	The Oval	England won by 134 runs

West Indies won series 4-0

England lead series 1-0

Remaining Tests
Second Test: Georgetown: March 10 to 15.
Third Test: Port of Spain: March 23 to 28.
Fourth Test: Bridgetown: April 5 to 10.
Fifth Test: Antigua: April 12 to 17.

FA Cup as memorial

The Football Association is understood to be on the point of giving the FA Cup to the City of Liverpool at the request of the Hillsborough Families Support Group.

The trophy would be seen as a lasting memorial to the 95 supporters who lost their lives at Sheffield Wednesday's ground before the FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest last season.

In disgrace

Mark Rowe, a US national champion on four occasions at distances between 400 metres and 600 yards, has been suspended from athletics for two years after testing positive for the illegal substance methyl testosterone. The Athletics Congress announced yesterday.

SPORT IN BRIEF

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SPORT IN BRIEF

Happy return

The Romanian gymnast, Nadia Comaneci, has returned to Montreal, the scene of her gold-medal triumph in the 1976 Olympics, and newspapers say she may be offered a job with an agency of the Quebec Government.

Long distance

Florence Griffith Joyner, the world's fastest woman, says she plans to make an Olympic comeback in the marathon.

A new home

Newport Borough Council are planning to spend £1.85 million next year on a new sports stadium at Spytty Park. The stadium would include an athletics track, a cricket pitch and a football pitch suitable for Newport AFC.

Award winner

Paul Hodgkinson, of Liverpool, has won the Young Boxer of the Year award.



Griffith Joyner: new aim

Bomb found

Dutch police, acting on a tip-off, foiled a bomb attack at a first division football match last weekend when they found a bottle packed with explosives hidden under a seat. It was announced yesterday. A spokesman, Gert de Jong, said the device was discovered at the Sparta Rotterdam stadium on Sunday before a game against Ajax Amsterdam.

Lucrative Marshall art

By Steve Acteson

What a difference a day makes. On Wednesday, Steve Newbury, the world No. 19,

received all the accolades after defeating the world snooker champion, Steve Davis, in the Pearl Assurance British Open in Derby. Yesterday, he lost 5-4 to the world No. 70, Robert Marshall, in the quarter-finals.

Marshall, aged 25, has won only £12,000 since embarking upon an appalling first season in 1987, when he won only one match and precisely £712.50. But by virtue of his latest victory, Marshall is assured of at least £22,500 in Derby.

With the world No. 16, Steve James, a 5-2 winner yesterday over Les Dodd, the highest-ranked player to survive, Marshall was entitled to say: "I've as good a chance as anybody of winning it. At the end of the day, there are going to be only four of us left and I know I have the ability to win

the title; it's just a question of whether I can produce the goods."

That he did in some style in the last two frames yesterday. Newbury had recovered from 3-1 down to lead 4-3 and then unleashed a battery of five successive snookers on the final yellow in the eighth frame. Marshall escaped every time, once off four cushions with a shot he described as "probably the best I've ever played".

Two months ago, James was, he admitted, "drinking too much and practising too little". Yesterday, having renounced the former and become addicted to the latter, he won his eleventh successive match in ranking tournaments.

Having been "tied up", as he put it, in the early frames by Dodd, the world No. 65,

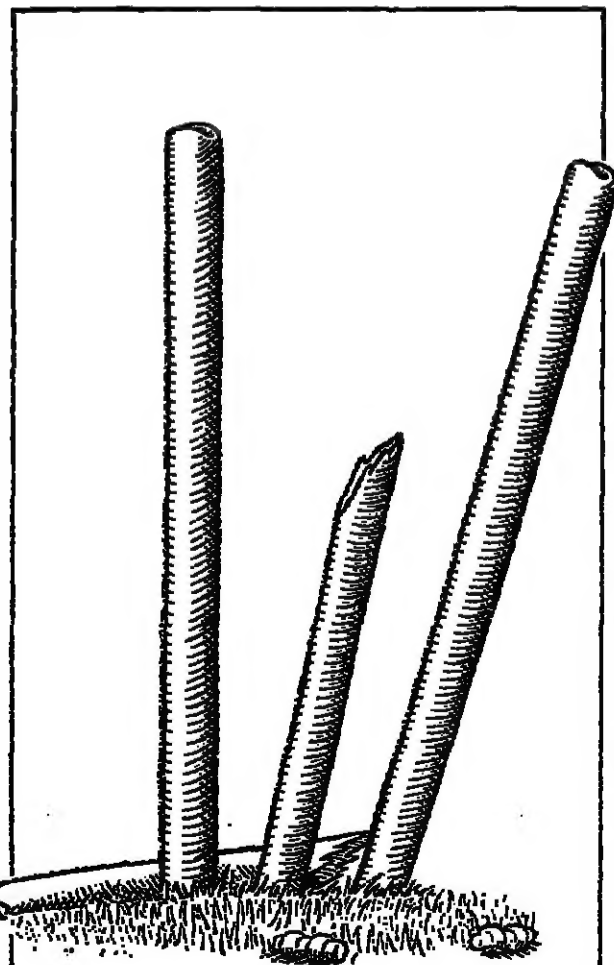
James, the Mercantile Credit Classic winner in January, cut himself loose with swashbuckling brakes of 66, 64, 83 and 32 to take his earnings in 1990 alone to £73,000.

James considers his transformation, both as a player and as a person, less to the fact that he has become diabetic than to his reunification at the start of the year with his former manager, Ramsay McLellan, a strict disciplinarian.

Small: The Quarter-finals (England versus Scotland) 5-4 James to 1, Dodd, 5-2; R. Wainwright's late fifth-round snooker: James to J. White, 5-4; N. Foulds to P.

Three-title chance

Jenna Mitchell, aged 15, of Surrey, goes for three national cross-country titles in eight weeks when she competes in the English Schools' Intermediate girls' championship.



They obviously had their Weetabix.

WHOLE WHEAT FOR WINNERS

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